

Navy News

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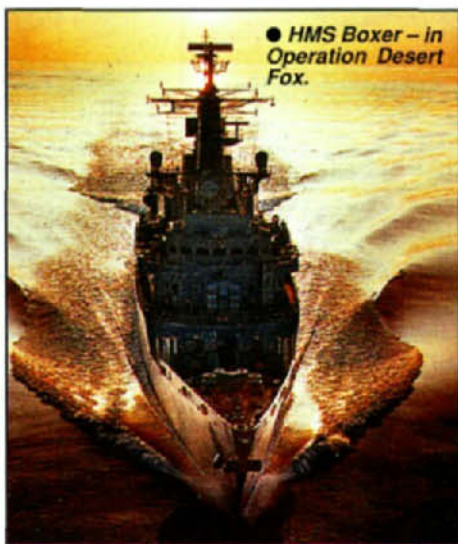
JANUARY 1999

80p

Triumph plays it cool

AGAINST the spectacular backdrop of the mountains of South Georgia, HMS Triumph rests tranquilly during her three-day visit to the island. In warmer latitudes King Neptune later visited the attack submarine as she crossed the equator en route to Florida and the UK, holding his traditional table in familiar surroundings – 200 metres deep.

■ Triumph's rare visitor – page 12



● HMS Boxer – in Operation Desert Fox.

Gulf warships face Saddam

BRITISH Naval ships in the Gulf were included in the line-up against Saddam Hussein as Anglo-US airstrikes hammered Iraqi weapon sites in the days before Christmas.

Working in close co-operation with the American Navy during Operation Desert Fox was the Type 22 frigate HMS Boxer, conducting her last deployment before being paid off. She is supported by the tanker RFA Brambleleaf and is continuing to enforce UN sanctions.

Armed with Seawolf missiles, Boxer has the capability to escort US warships against possible Iraqi air attack – although such a strike was regarded as very unlikely in view of Iraq's depleted air resources.

■ Gulf crackdown – page 16.

WIN A LUXURY HOLIDAY FOR TWO – p32

JOB VALUE SHAKE-UP OVER PAY

THE BIGGEST shake-up in Armed Forces pay since the introduction of the military salary almost 30 years ago is due next year.

The new deal – Pay 2000 – will come in on April 1, 2000 with a fresh approach to job evaluation (JE). It will more closely link skills and pay in a system aimed to provide greater fairness and flexibility.

EXCLUSIVE

Among the factors in weighing up job values will be knowledge, experience, complexity, use of resources and working conditions.

As well as JE, an incremental pay structure – in which financial progress can be made without the necessity of promotion – will be introduced for everyone from AB and marine to commodore/brigadier. At present only officers have an incremental system.

Rises on the incremental scale will depend on experience in rank, qualifications – and satisfactory performance.

Personnel are being assured that when the new scheme comes in no one's pay will be cut. Some will, in fact, receive a small rise in addition to the annual cost-of-living increase – which will be unaffected. Also unaffected will be pensions.

The changes are being made in response to criticism by Sir Michael Bett's Independent Review in 1995 and by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body.

The AFPRB found the existing system too complicated and too rigid to deal with future needs. It has often said that it is becoming harder to deliver pay comparability with the civilian sector –

something that eventually could mean that Service people will lose out.

Matching pay more closely to job weighting has been done to some extent by the other two Services, but not as yet by the Navy, where personnel of the same seniority and rank have largely been paid the same.

The job evaluation system for all three Services will weigh-up all jobs from AB to Admiral. For flag-rank officers each post will have a score while for other officers each rank will have a range of scores encompassing all appointments likely to be filled by that rank.

Ratings will have a whole trade score

■ Turn to page 18

Longitude journal sells for £89,500

A CLOCKMAKER'S struggle to solve the problem of longitude and collect his promised reward is documented in his original journal, which has sold at Sotheby's for £89,500 – three times more than expected.

John Harrison (1693-1776) was a Yorkshire-born horologist who invented the first truly accurate marine timekeeper, thereby solving the greatest scientific problem of his age – the discovery of longitude at sea. He has become world-famous through Dava Sobel's recent best seller *Longitude*.

His original journal covers the years 1761-1766 and details the dealings of Harrison and his son William (1728-

1815) with the Commissioners of Longitude during the critical years following Harrison's construction of his fourth and most successful timekeeper, the so-called H4, a copy of which accompanied Captain Cook on his second great voyage of discovery in 1772.

Despite his remarkable work, Harrison faced a prolonged struggle to persuade the Board of Longitude that he had fulfilled all the requirements for the prize of £20,000 – equivalent to £8 million today – offered by the Act of Parliament of 1714.

His frustrations were exacerbated by the prevailing scientific prejudice against mere mechanical devices and the assumption that the final solution

would depend on astronomers and their charting of the heavens.

Among the letters, memorials, petitions and explanatory narrative contained in the journal are some indications of the frustrations Harrison faced: "It must be owned that my case is very hard, but I hope I am the first, and for my country's sake, shall be the last that suffers by pinning my faith on an English Act of Parliament."

The journal, which has corrections in the hand of William Harrison, is unquestionably the original document prepared by Harrison's friend and attorney, Walter Williams.

It was unknown until after the death of William Harrison, but was kept by his family until its disposal, possibly

around 1900. It did not appear again until it was acquired at an auction of household effects about 30 years ago.

By a remarkable coincidence, one of two known copies of the original journal was offered in the same sale.

It, too, was retained by the Harrison family until the death of the last direct descendant, John Harrison (1828-1894). The nephew of John Harrison's beneficiary sold it in a provincial auction to the present owner in 1958.

Harrison was awarded a succession of sums amounting by 1775 to £23,065 in recognition of his services. He was never officially recognised by the Board of Longitude as the winner of the prize, although generally acknowledged as such in practice.



● John Harrison – inventor of the first truly accurate marine timekeeper.

Crew of Talent in town flood clean-up

SAILORS from submarine HMS Talent probably felt quite at home during a visit to their affiliated town of Shrewsbury – it coincided with a spell of severe flooding.

The Trafalgar-class attack submarine has been officially linked with the Shropshire town for eight years, and so was only too pleased to lend a hand when the River Severn burst its banks following heavy rain.

A programmed visit suddenly became a mission to help clear up the town, and the men of the Devonport-based boat took advice from the ship's company of HMS Cornwall, who provided disaster relief in West Africa last year.

With additional stores from Devonport's base supply organisation, a party of 30 drove to Shrewsbury and spent two days working with the civil authorities to help clean-up operations in schools, homes and public areas while Commanding Officer Cdr Bob Tarrant explained to local media how a group of submariners came to be working in a town 50 miles from the sea.

Centurion in Kosovo task

LATEST SHIP to join the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, RFA Sea Centurion, embarked on her first operation before Christmas when she carried the Army's heavy equipment to Macedonia for the Kosovo Extraction Force.

The equipment, including Warrior armoured personnel carriers, was landed at Thessalonika in Greece for use by the 500 British troops based on 1st Battalion the King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

They are part of a NATO force on hand should it be needed to protect and retrieve members of the Kosovo Verification Mission.

Ocean back from trials

HELICOPTER carrier HMS Ocean returned from ten weeks of hot-weather trials in the Caribbean on December 12.

The trials were interrupted when the carrier was diverted to provide disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. And on December 17 the landing ship RFA Sir Tristram, which also took part in the operation, returned to Marchwood.

Ocean's Commanding Officer, Capt Bob Turner, said that the ship proved her worth in providing humanitarian relief. "Our helicopters were essential to the mission," he said.

■ 45 Cdo in Belize – page 19.

HMS BIRMINGHAM PACT HERALDS CLOSER LINKS WITH FRENCH



● Aided by the Commanding Officer of HMS Birmingham, Cdr Adrian Bell, Defence Secretary George Robertson and his French counterpart Alain Richard prepare to sign the Letter of Intent on board the ship. Standing behind them are the British and French Chiefs of the Defence Staff, General Sir Charles Guthrie and General d'Armée Jean-Pierre Kelche.

Picture: CPO(M) Jamie Flanagan.

A NEW DEFENCE agreement which heralds closer military ties between Britain and France has been signed on board HMS Birmingham.

The Type 42 destroyer provided the meeting place at St Malo for Defence Secretary George Robertson and his French counterpart Alain Richard. They signed a Letter

of Intent which allows for better co-operation in crisis management and military operations.

It is seen as a major, practical step towards strengthening Europe's defence capability.

Mr Robertson said: "It builds on our already excellent defence links and on our record of successful combined operations, including Bosnia, West Africa and Kosovo – areas where we have worked

together in very real circumstances."

He said the agreement was not exclusive – both countries would continue to operate with existing allies and force contributors and would welcome similar agreements with others.

The agreement provides for joint Anglo-French operations to be mounted and covers logistics, intelligence, civil and military affairs, personnel exchanges and media handling.

No mean city – no mean ship

FOR THE first time in four years HMS Glasgow has visited Glasgow, renewing old affiliations – particularly with the ship's adopted charity, Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital – and Kelbourne school for the disabled.

At Knightswood secondary school members of the ship's company were able to see how a large area of wasteland they cleared on their last visit has been developed into a recreation area for pupils.

HMS Glasgow's Commanding Officer, Cdr John King, opened the newest feature to the garden – an ecological pond used mainly by the biology department.

Knightswood also houses the Scottish School of Dance where the 60 students combine a dancing course with everyday curriculum subjects.

Many of them will go on to national dance theatres and companies to finish their training – meanwhile they put on a performance for the ship's company that included a traditional hornpipe.

On the sports field HMS Glasgow teams showed what they were made of, winning 3-5 at soccer against Strathclyde police, and 13-24 against a Loch Lomond rugby XV.



● Stepping out with some of the students of the Scottish School of Dance is the CO of HMS Glasgow, Cdr John King. The encounter came when the ship visited the City of Glasgow.

● Back home at Portsmouth from her South Atlantic deployment, having handed over to HMS Sutherland, is the Type 42 destroyer HMS Edinburgh. See also page 4.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Steve Wood



MINISTER PRAISES FALKLANDS FORCE

'A superb job in providing security'

ARMED Forces Minister Doug Henderson paid a five-day visit to the Falklands last month – the first Defence Minister to do so for two years.

He spent his time meeting members of the Falkland Islands Garrison under the command of Air Commodore Ray Dixon and having discussions with the Falklands Governor, Richard Ralph.

He also went on board HMS Dumbarton Castle, visited the memorial to HMS Sheffield on Sea Lion Island and laid a wreath at the Stanley War Memorial.

Said Mr Henderson: "Our Garrison in the Falkland Islands is an important expression of the Government's commitment to defend the right of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own

future. The men and women who serve there do a superb job in providing the security of the Islands.

"I am honoured to be the first Minister in this Government to visit them, see what they do at first hand, and to confirm our sincere appreciation for all that they do."

The Garrison currently comprises some 1,750 personnel in permanent land, sea and air elements.

Defence Secretary George Robertson and his Argentinian counterpart Jorge Dominguez earlier signed a Defence Memorandum of Understanding covering existing bilateral activities and setting out areas where there might

be mutual benefit in further co-operation.

An MOD spokesman told Navy News the MOU did not allow for any activity which might impact on British security interests in the South Atlantic, nor did it affect the current arms embargo.

□ Former Gosport Mayor Cllr Peter Edgar, who in 1997 initiated the 15th anniversary commemoration of the Falklands War in the town's Falkland Gardens attended by Baroness Thatcher, was invited by the Falkland Islands Government for a week-long tour last month.

Boarding party hi-jacked by Dutch trawler

A ROYAL Navy boarding party was marooned when a Dutch trawler skipper refused to co-operate during a routine search.

The party of three senior rates from Hunt-class mine counter-measures vessel HMS Quorn boarded the Jozina in the Strait of Dover and asked the master to haul in the nets for inspection.

But the skipper allegedly threatened the warrant officer and two petty officers with violence, then cut his nets and made a dash for Belgian waters.

Once inside the Belgian limits, the sailors were allowed to return to their ship, which is on Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food duties as part of the Navy's Fishery Protection Squadron.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said this type of incident was very rare and the vast majority of skippers co-operated.

He said the matter was now in the hands of the Dutch authorities, and that MAFF and other fishery authorities were co-operating with the Dutch enquiries. He added: "If she comes back into our waters we'd very much like to speak to her master."

JACK ET JACQUES

Les Voix from le Past

(On board le galley Français La Superbe*, près de Monaco, circa 1704)

'Je suis fed up avec cette vie, Jack! C'est une fate worse than la mort! Les cramped conditions! Les longues heures! Les endless deployments! Les officiers sadistiques!'

'Oh, je ne sais pas, Jacques. C'était just le même quand j'étais dans le RN.'

'Pull l'autre one, Jack! Dans le RN vous n'êtes pas chained to les oars pour 24 heures dans le jour! Et il n'y a pas un homme avec un grand whip pour vous encourager!'

'There is, aussi! J'étais toujours en trouble dans le RN, Jacques! Pour chaque tiny infraction des règles j'étais put dans les leg irons. Et puis je dois faire mon own chat au neuf tails, avec which je serai flogged à un centimetre de ma vie le next matin.'

'Non! Vraiment? C'est terrible, ça ... Mais le scan, c'est un morceau better, surely?'

'Si vous aimez le salt porc trois années past its sell-by date, Jacques! Et les stale biscuits avec, s'il vous êtes lucky, un few weevils et worms pour extra protein.'

'Phew ... Mais at least vous avez vos daily tots de rum, Jack! Nous avons seulement le watered down vin très ordinaire dans cet hell ship!'

'Ah, c'est un grand avantage pour moi, Jacques! Dans le RN, j'étais en danger de becoming un alcoolique! Maintenant je suis sur le wagon – et il a sauvé ma vie! Back home, je would 'ave 'ad to spend several semaines dans la très chère drying-out clinique d'Old Mother Betty Ford. Which je could not afford anyway parce que le RN does not pay us from one année à la next. Mark mes mots, Jacques – there will be un grand mutiny dans le RN before long because of les lousy working conditions. C'est pourquoi j'ai demandé cet exchange duty. "Bonne chance, Jack!" Drafty m'a dit. "Mais je require votre full duty free allowance par return." Le sale thieving batard ...'

'Sacre bleu! Nous ne sommes pas so badly off que j'avais cru! Hang on, though ... Dans le RN, vous êtes un free man! More ou less, anyway. Ici nous sommes prisonniers! Nous sommes slaves dans ce galley, Jack! Condamnés to row up and down le Côte d'Azur pour éternité!'

'C'est vrai, Jacques. Mais j'ai un vision! One day people will pay un fortune pour le privilège! Et un few nutters will even try to row accross l'Atlantique, just pour le fun of it. Can vous believe ça?'

'Non. Pas really, Jack. Et je ne sais pas pourquoi vous êtes so happy avec notre situation! Vous will never see vos loved ones encore!'

'Vous n'avez pas met ma femme, Jacques ... 'Allo – 'ere comes l'homme avec le grand whip. Je crois qu'il likes moi. Il a seulement whipped moi 23 fois yesterday! Let's 'ave un song, Jacques! Vous savez this one? "And we all pull together ..."

* La Superbe était une vrai galley Française. Le chaplain de La Superbe, John Bion, était l'auteur de An Account of the Torments the French Protestants Endure Aboard the Gallies, published en 1708.



Happy to volunteer!

STAFF from Bristol University Royal Naval Unit were on hand to help open a famous Bristol pub – The Famous Royal Navy Volunteer.

The Naval Volunteer, as it was once called, dates back to 1673 and was for long a favourite target for the Press Gang. It has now undergone a ten-week long refit.

● Left to right with managers Adam and Andrea Hyland are Unit First Lieutenant Lt Dick Clements, Coxswain CPO Keith Tatham, Commander S, BRNC Dartmouth Cdr Charlie King, and the OIC Bristol URNU and Commanding Officer HMS Dasher, Lt Sue Moore.





Drafty: The Royal Marines



Survival tactics need changing

IN THE 'good old days' Marines thought that to avoid a draft all they needed to do was keep very still and very quiet.

By using the possum survival technique they thought they would be overlooked by the drafters and not drafted or quota'd onto a course.

In following these simple guidelines men could spend many glorious years in the same unit, avoiding the hassle associated with moving.

Today there is no need to hide from the drafters, and therefore Marines are encouraged to come out of their bunkers.

There are three simple reasons for this. Firstly, the dreaded quota system was discontinued in January last year and trained ranks are no longer loaded to specialist courses unless they volunteer for one.

Secondly, the omniscient manning computer makes it impossible to hide. Thirdly, and most importantly, to influence and shape their career in the Corps, men need to communicate with us.

All Marines can and should take an interest in their future in the Corps, even those who only wish to make it a short career. Why risk getting a draft you do not want, when you can ask for and get the draft that you do?

The former can prove very frustrating for both the man and the unit, the latter could mean more contented and motivated people to the benefit of all involved. So, if you don't ask, you don't get.

In order to manage an individual's career successfully through

"Why risk getting a draft you don't want when you can ask for, and get, the draft you do?"

his time in the Corps, a drafter needs to know that individual's aspirations.

In the Corps, Marines communicate with the drafter using a Form C233, Drafting Course Request Card. The drafter communicates through several media to the individual including the chain of command, newsletters, routine orders, roadshows and draft orders.

It is important that an individual is able to optimise his career opportunities by ensuring he has as much access as possible to career information that will influence his choice of career path. Neglecting these opportunities reflects a lack of interest in a future career and can lead to an individual missing important messages.

It's good to talk and the Naval Manning Agency (Whale Island) now offers the opportunity to develop long term career planning

through the following means:

□ Roadshows: The drafters and promoters visit each unit at least once a year. They expound on recent initiatives from both disciplines, affording each man the opportunity to question the team on new ideas and drafting and promotion policy as well as allowing personnel a one-to-one interview on any aspect of their career aspirations.

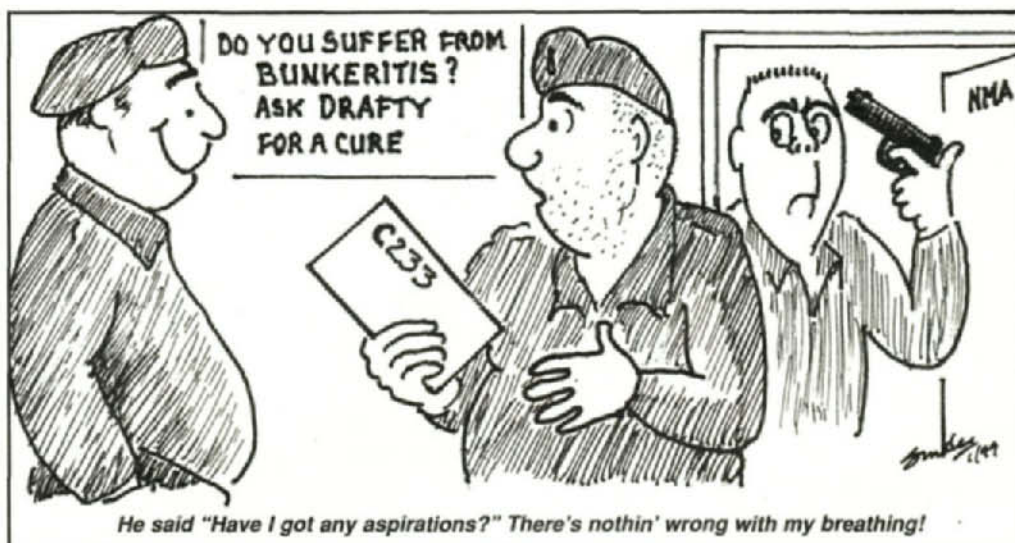
□ Helpline: The Helpline is open daily between 0830 and 1730. The number allows Royal Marines of any rank to have access to drafting and course information.

The number is 01705 547534 or on the military net 93832 7534. The line is getting busier as more and more people use it.

The service is also available to the chain of command for career counselling purposes, but is not designed to answer promotion enquiries.

□ Promotion prospect assessments: Promotion prospect assessments are available to various ranks at stages when they may be eligible for further promotion, for example once a man has achieved B grades on his reports.

The assessment is requested in writing and returned in writing with various caveats. It allows an individual the opportunity to



assess realistically where he stands in terms of promotion within his branch and whether he should adjust his career aspirations or even consider changing branches.

□ Corps Drafting Officer's newsletter: This newsletter is a two page document sent to units quarterly which includes the latest information from the NMA(WI) in skeleton form with a reference from where further information can be gleaned.

□ Branch roadshows: Branches which require to recruit will do so using unit roadshows to advertise life within their branch.

□ Career education: During recruit training, NMA(WI) staff inform Royal Marines on their career options and the benefits and liabilities of joining a particular branch.

These periods include a personal interview with a drafting officer.

□ Branch advisors: Branch advisors are a key part of the drafting process as they fulfil a vital function by providing an informal link between the deployer and the man. They advise NMA(WI) on the suitability and wishes of the individual, however, it is the NMA who draft and promote, not the branch advisor.

The future

□ The Navy Net: The proposed introduction of Navy Net should allow NMA(WI) to explore the possibility of using the pan-Navy computer system, Navy Star, to promulgate career information and afford more informed career planning, specifically tailored to an individual's circumstances.

This is an aspiration which would enable everyone to benefit from the career management initiative using a Navy Net terminal based in their unit.

□ Ratings and other ranks reporting: The ratings and other ranks reporting system (RORRS) which was introduced to the RN in October 1998 will start in the RM in April with the first report being submitted in October 1999.

An RORRS Implementation Team has already formed up with in HQRM and is busy producing job descriptions in time for distribution to units in May. A Roadshow will travel around the Corps briefing all ranks on the new system in the not too distant future.

□ GD Branch and Career Manager: As the largest branch in the Corps the General Duties branch has been disadvantaged by not having a full time branch advisor.

There is a career management measure within next year's funding bid which would enable the NMA to employ a Warrant Officer, full time, on this vital task.

His duties will include ensuring that each individual clearly understands the implications of remaining GD or opting for a specialist qualification (SQ) or technical qualification (TQ).

Remember, the time is right for you to influence your career. Make sure you take advantage of any form of career information and, if necessary, go out and find out more about the options available.

We in the NMA are waiting to hear from you.

SITUATIONS VACANT

LMEM(M) for HMS Lancaster. The ship is in refit at Devonport until December, when she moves to Portsmouth. Normal LMEM(M) duties, required September for 30 months.

LMEM(M) for NEFI. A sea-going billet in the Falkland Islands, normal LMEM(M) duties, required September for four months.

MEM(1) for HMS Leeds Castle. A sea-going billet based in Portsmouth, AMC/MEMOC, required August for 21 months.

MEM1 for HMS Dumbarton Castle. A sea-going billet based in the Falklands, AMC/MEMOC required September for six months.

MEM1 for HMS Bangor. A sea-going billet based in Portsmouth, AMC/MEMOC required October for 30 months.

MEM1 for HMS Cromer. An AMC/MEMOC (L) sea-going billet based in Faslane, required September for 26 months.

Two LOM (TSM) billets for Armed Forces careers offices in Birmingham and Hull. General careers office duties, required February for six months.



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Capital prize for Edinburgh reservist



RESERVIST AB Mark Thompson got more from a deployment with HMS Edinburgh than he could have possibly imagined.

As well as enjoying everything that a South Atlantic voyage has to offer, he entered the ship's lottery and won a brand new Rover 211!

The car, provided by Seward (Rover) Havan, was waiting for him on the jetty when the ship returned to Portsmouth. Below: The keys to the new car are handed over to Mark by Edinburgh's CO, Cdr Jack Tarr.



● On duty – HMS Chatham serves as Second Sea Lord's flagship during the summer at Cowes Week.

Ship echoes cry of old Chatham

Shortly before the completion of HMS Chatham in 1989, the new ship's staff decided to look into the provision of a motto.

They felt the traditional Chatham Dockyard cry of "Up and at 'em", familiar from soccer and rugby pitch touchlines, fitted the bill and the Ships Names and Badges Committee agreed.

So it is that the Type 22 frigate has the rare honour of an English motto, subsequently translated into Latin – *Surge et vince*, or "Arise and conquer" – which maintains the ship's strong links with the Medway.

The Broadsword-class vessel has just entered her first refit, after nearly ten years of active service.

The last couple of years have proved particularly interesting, and Chatham has notched up a number of firsts for Batch 3 Type 22s such as Armilla Patrol and Flag role, underlining the ship's effectiveness as a general-purpose frigate.

One of her proudest moments was during the Ocean Wave deployment, when she was guardship for the Royal Yacht for the handover of Hong Kong.

On the way home, she visited Cape Town, where she was the UK's representative for the 75th anniversary of the South African Navy.

This year saw Chatham as command platform (flagship) for two major exercises, one held during February gales off the Western Isles of Scotland.

She also managed to fit in a visit to her home town port in Kent, act as guardship for British National Day at Expo 98 in Lisbon, as flagship for the Second Sea Lord at Cowes Week, and call into Cork, apart from the usual round of training and exercises.

In the 18 months before the start of her refit, Chatham has visited

20 countries and gained four splices of the main brace from members of the Royal family.

Her refit will keep her out of circulation until the end of the summer, by which time several of her systems, particularly electronics, will have been upgraded.

The Devonport-based ship, part of the Second Frigate Squadron, will then be ready to take on the full range of commitments her powerful sensors, communications and weaponry put within her capabilities.

A dozen assorted...

THERE have been a dozen or so HMS Chathams before the current frigate, but many were small fry, such as the sheer hulk of 1694 which was actually built as a hulk, or the eighth, a ten-gun sloop hired between 1793-95.

But among them stand some notable vessels.

The fifth Chatham, a six-gun yacht launched in 1741, served as the Commissioner's Yacht at Chatham; she and her company of ten had the honour of transporting Nelson's body from HMS Victory at the Nore to Greenwich, where it lay in state before the funeral.

The sixth Chatham won the name's first Battle Honour; the

1758 50-gun fourth rate took part in the 50-hour bombardment of shipping in Le Havre in 1759 and Admiral Hawke's subsequent victory over a French fleet in Quiberon Bay.

Her successor, a four-gun survey brig of 1788, took part in Vancouver's voyage of discovery in the Pacific.

The 12th Chatham was the nameship of a class of 5,400-ton light cruisers, built in 1911 and seeing much service in the First World War.

She won the name's second Battle Honour in the Dardanelles operation in 1915-16, and despite being damaged by a mine in 1916 she saw out the war.

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BATTLE HONOURS

Quiberon Bay 1759
Dardanelles 1915-16

Facts and figures

Class: Batch 3 Type 22 frigate
Pennant number: F87
Builder: Swan-Hunter
Launched: January 20, 1988
Commissioned: May 4, 1990
Displacement: 4,850 tonnes (full)
Length: 148.1 metres
Beam: 14.8 metres
Draught: 6.4 metres
Speed: 31 knots
Complement: 237
Machinery: Two Rolls-Royce Spey gas turbines; two Rolls-Royce Tyne gas turbines, two shafts
Aircraft: Two Lynx, one Sea King or one Merlin
Weapons: Two quadruple Harpoon launchers, GWS 25 Mod 3 SeaWolf anti-missile missile system, 4.5in gun, two 20mm guns (after refit), Goalkeeper, two triple torpedo tubes
Sensors: Type 2050 sonar (after refit), Type 1006 navigational radar, Type 967 and 968 surveillance radars, UAT electronic surveillance system (after refit)
Affiliations: Medway Council; 1st Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; Prior Park College CCF (Bath), Kings School Rochester CCF, TS Cornwallis SCC; TS Anson SCC; 5th Medway Sea Scouts; Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust; RNA Chatham Branch; British Korean Veterans' Association; Kent Invicta Branch; Lloyd's of London; Merchant Taylor's Company; Schweppes Europe; Colonial Financial Services (UK) Ltd; Chatham Publishing
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AIRCRAFT OF THE ROYAL NAVY No 27



● Post-war Blackburn Firebrand Mk 4 torpedo fighter number EK660.
Picture: FAA Museum.

Blackburn Firebrand

CONCEIVED at the start of the war, the Blackburn Firebrand underwent a role change mid-life, and the aircraft didn't reach a front-line squadron until 1945.

The prototypes, which first flew in 1942, were designed as short-range interceptors, but the Firebrand's performance did not match that of the Supermarine Seafire, so the Admiralty looked to capitalise on its load-carrying potential by converting it to a torpedo-armed strike fighter.

The new version, with a widened centre-section to allow for an 18in torpedo between the wheels, first flew as a Firebrand II in March 1943, but only 21 of the first two variants were produced, and the switch to Mk III brought a new power unit – the Centaurus replaced the Sabre, which was required for RAF Typhoons.

The Mk 4, with larger tailfin and rudder, a two-position torpedo mount and wing dive-brakes, totalled 102 aircraft, and in September 1945 813 Squadron at Ford re-formed with 15 Firebrand TF4s, becoming the first FAA squadron to fly single-seat torpedo planes since the Dart in 1933.

813's Firebrands took part in the Victory Flypast over London in 1946.

The Mk 5 variant brought the total number of Firebrands to 220 before they were superseded by Westland Wyverns in 1953.

The Mk 5, powered by the 2,520hp Bristol Centaurus IX engine, could carry a 1,850lb torpedo or two 1,000lb bombs or rockets. They had a maximum speed of 340mph, though they cruised at just over 250mph, a range of 740 miles and a ceiling of just under 30,000ft.

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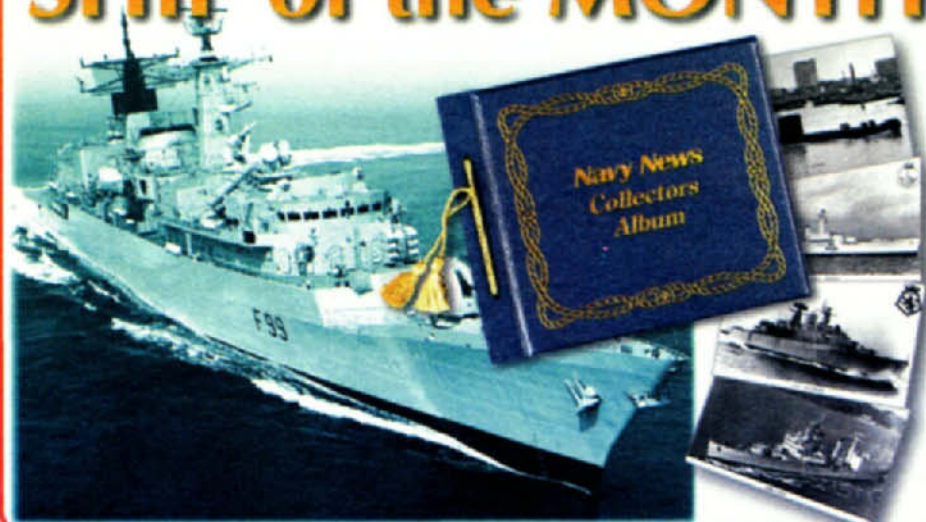
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JACK

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYBODY!

... IT IS FOR SOME OF US.



How Jack beat the Blues

YOUR readers may have noticed in the October deaths columns the name of J. Goldsmith, ex-coxswain of HMS Brissenden. They may not know that he was the same Jack Goldsmith who along with PO Tel J. Gilbody set up the all-time record of having each drunk 46 bottles of Blues in Tony's Bar, Sliema, on January 19, 1947.

The feat is part of Naval folklore, beloved of old Med Fleet buffs and even of those who had only a passing acquaintance with Malta.

Suffice to say that when lamps are swung and tales are told this pair will be fondly recalled. — Bill Campbell, Belfast.

'Daddies' both

I WAS most interested to read the letters from J. R. Bates and N. Pearce in the September issue. The expression "Like father, like son" is most apt in the case of Ernle Pope.

I too had the pleasure of meeting Admiral Pope, having been introduced to him by his father, Cdr R. K. C. Pope, DSO, under whom I had the honour and pleasure to serve in Combined Ops at Kabret, Egypt in 1941-42.

He too was a most delightful CO, extremely considerate and affectionately known as "Daddy" Pope! It was he (as an ex-Submarine) who encouraged me to volunteer for submarines, which I did, without any regrets, in August '42.

Both father and son were fine examples of what makes the Royal Navy the No 1 Service. — R.H. Read, Liverpool, New York.

Death no bar to Atlantic Star ruling

I WAS interested in your article about the Atlantic Star (November). There is another aspect which was not mentioned and which probably affects a large number of Royal and Merchant Navy personnel, as well as the families of those deceased.

As a result of a letter in the *Daily Mail* in 1994 we took up the case of a deceased Merchant sailor whose family was denied the Atlantic Star because he, at the time of his death by enemy action, had not completed sufficient service in the Atlantic.

Merchant Naval medals are issued by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) advised by the Royal Naval medal office. Both were adamant that they were correct and the MCA even consulted lawyers about their interpretation of the rules in the Command Paper.

To cut a four-year-long story short the medal offices finally agreed in June 1998 that they were wrong. The rules are in fact made perfectly clear in Admiralty Fleet Order 2817 dated August 1947, solely about the Atlantic Star, which says:

"Officers and men whose services were brought to an end by death, wounds or other disability due to service on operations in a qualifying area for the Atlantic Star, or who have been granted a British Honour, Decoration, Mention in Despatches or King's

Commendation while engaged in such service, qualify for the Star without regard to the six or two months time requirements. Awards made under these conditions will be additional to any award of the 1939-45 Star."

I know that both RN and MN families have been denied the star, but I do not know for how long this misinterpretation has been in effect. If it applies to all those killed, wounded, disabled or decorated in their first six months of service in the Atlantic the numbers could be very high. We

should be grateful if you would publish this letter to alert some of those deprived of the star that they should re-apply. We are especially concerned that the families of those killed in action should not be wrongfully deprived of the star. — A. R. Tinson, Medals Advisor, Royal British Legion.

Letters to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.

How Exeter sea day won us an Oxford readership

I WAS very interested to read the article about HMS Exeter in the November issue. I have never served in the RN but I consider the Exeter to be "my" ship because I was lucky enough to be chosen to spend a day at sea in her on May 8, 1997.

This came about because I work at Exeter College in the University of Oxford and 20 members of the college were invited to spend an Affiliation Sea Day with her before she went to Rosyth for a refit.

I had a super day and wrote an article about it for the college magazine. In response, two people wrote who were undergraduates when the association between the college and the ship began in 1939 after the Battle of the River Plate.

One sent the menu card used at the dinner given by the college to officers of the ship and signed by every person at the dinner. Also an edition of the *Oxford Mail* for February 26, 1940 recording the event. These items are now in the college archives.

I now buy the *Navy News* because I like the fantastic pictures and the human interest stories. And of course I always look out for a mention of HMS Exeter. — J. Fraser, Oxford.

REFERENCE your article about the visit by crew members of HMS Edinburgh to the graves of sailors killed in the Graf Spee action, whilst in Montevideo for three weeks in July-August 1943 my oppo Leading Stoker Dusty Miller and I were firm friends of the cemetery manager-caretaker, a Mr Bennett and his family.

We spent practically every day with them and visited the cemetery regularly and on leaving for the last time left flowers by the graves.

Surely it is a sad thing, if we were the last visitors until the Edinburgh arrived. — G. Turner, Basildon

Ton links hold firm

HAVING seen the request for volunteers for HMS Bronington (September issue) prompts me to write to you about another preserved Ton class, now TS Kellington.

Currently berthed at Stockton-on-Tees, she is now the headquarters of the Stockton Sea Cadet Corps, this year officially affiliated to the Ton Class Association.

Anyone who would like to help the unit should contact the Commanding Officer, Lt Cdr E. Crawford.

A further development will be the re-establishment of the link with the village of Kellington in South Yorkshire.

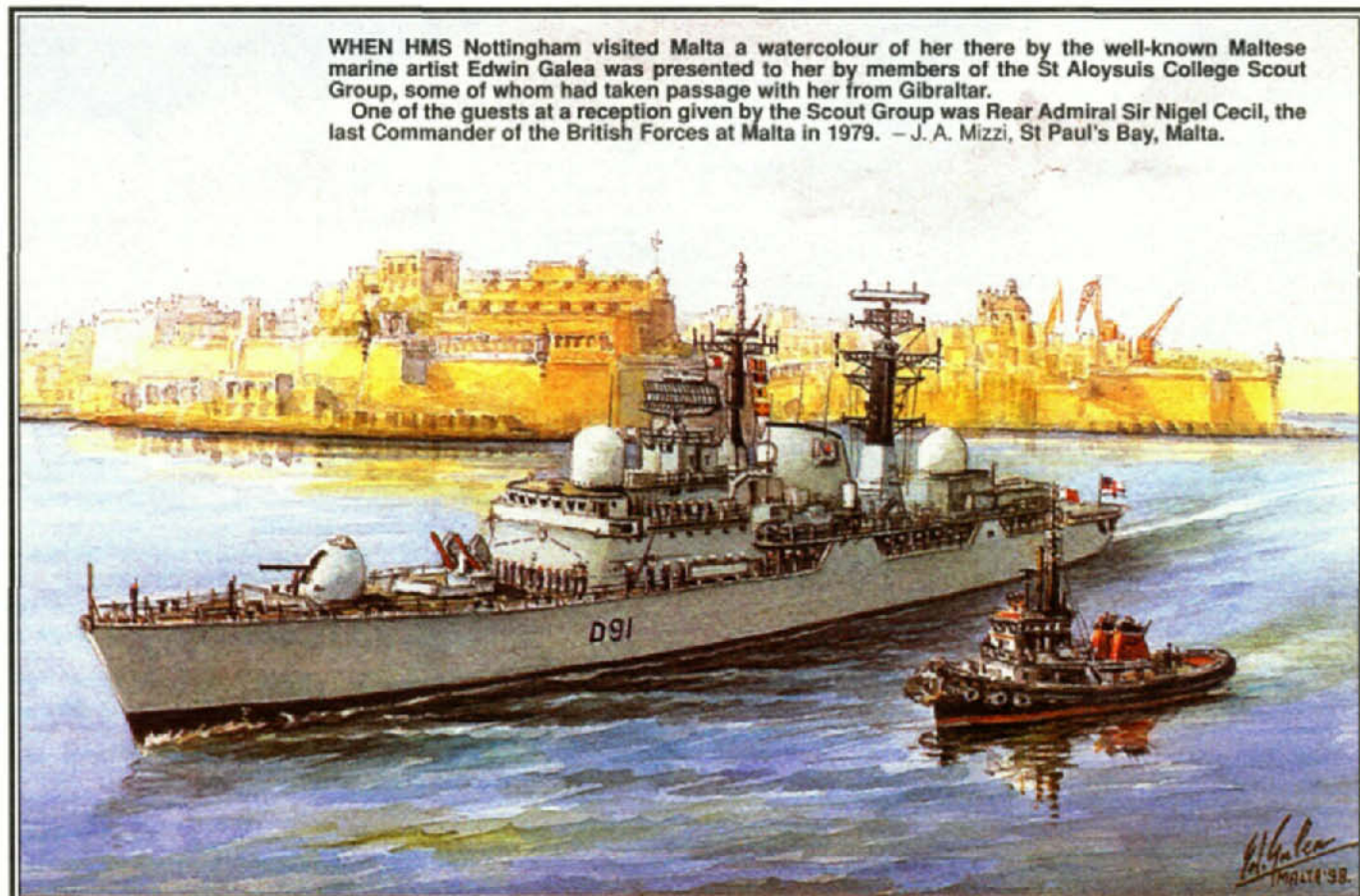
The Association has already established links with the villages of Coniston, Fittleton and Kemerton, although these ships have long since gone. Contact Mr Tony Quick at 29 Falcon Way, Garston, Watford WD2 4YA. — B. Mitchell, Crawley.

Britannia return?

NOW that HMY Britannia is (sadly) a mere tourist attraction, could I make a plea that the name be restored to the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, formerly HMS Britannia? — Cdr J. Loring, Salisbury.

WHEN HMS Nottingham visited Malta a watercolour of her there by the well-known Maltese marine artist Edwin Galea was presented to her by members of the St Aloysius College Scout Group, some of whom had taken passage with her from Gibraltar.

One of the guests at a reception given by the Scout Group was Rear Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil, the last Commander of the British Forces at Malta in 1979. — J. A. Mizzi, St Paul's Bay, Malta.



Navy News

No.534 45th year

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Guns that once graced the Hood

"HOOD badge may make over £1,000" (October issue) caught my eye with its mention of the guns used to strengthen the defences of Ascension Island.

I enclose a photograph of one of the two guns known as the Hood Battery, marked 1915 and 1916 on their respective trunnions. Were there more than two of these from Hood on the island? Until now, I had thought the guns were changed during a 1936 refit.

There is an older battery of guns dating from the Victorian Navy that would have been manned by the Royal Marines garrison.

I heard years ago that a previous HMS Hood, probably the pre-Dreadnought, lies as a block ship in the

southern entrance of Portland Harbour. - S. Houghton, Sutton St Nicholas, Herefordshire.

YOU MAY be wrong in claiming that all the 5.5in guns from HMS Hood were used to defend Ascension Island. I found only two, on Cross Hill, one of which you can traverse and elevate.

I think you will find the others in the Faroe Islands. - N. P. N. Evans, Sheffield.

The 14,150 ton battleship HMS Hood launched at Chatham in 1891 was sunk as a blockship in Portland Harbour on November 4, 1914. - Ed.



● A 5.5in gun from HMS Hood on Ascension Island

High profile in deepest Herts

ALTHOUGH I had been retired from the Royal Navy for some 14 years, serving my time since then at the Ministry of Defence, I had been determined to maintain my links with the Service. A quick check at MOD just before I retired as a Retired Officer pointed me in the right direction and I telephoned the secretary of the St Albans RNA.

It was with some trepidation that I entered the hallways but my fears were totally unfounded. I was welcomed by everyone - committee members, full members, associate members and honorary members alike welcomed me heartily, bought me drinks and made me feel completely at ease.

It was only when we came to "Any Other Business" that I came to realise just what that lone tot was doing standing on the Chairman's table. I was called upon to drink the tot, receive my tie and badge and entertain everyone with a short discourse on my Service career.

My short speech was interrupted at regular intervals. I mentioned that I had started my career at HMS

Ganges (interruption from the Ganges clique) and served my time in HMS Jutland (interruption from Battle-class clique), HMS Loch Alvie (interruption from the Loch clique) and various submarines (interruption from submariners) and so on and so on!

It doesn't matter where you served or which ship or establishment you served in, you will always meet someone who was there at the same time and much time can be spent in swapping yarns.

In common with all other branches, we are a caring concern and we are constantly trying to win new members. We advertise in the local papers, have an advertisement on Comtel TV Channel 6, have our own Website page and our own e-mail address. In addition, an RNA presentation is planned in the local library while leaflets are being posted right, left and centre in the area.

There is little more that we can do to promote ourselves, but apathy outside appears to be the order of the day. If only they knew what they were missing. - P. R. Feiler, Chairman, St Albans RNA.



Uniform plea

NOW that uniform is to be allowed to be worn ashore, can we be assured that dress regulations will be adhered to?

Before the ban came into effect a strange mixture of suits, pullovers and No 8s could be seen around town, worn either with caps, berets or at times no headgear. How they got past the gate and gangway staffs was a mystery. - D.W.Hughes, Purbrook, Hants.

Sunk by torpedo

REFERENCE to HMS Eagle sinking (November), I would like to inform you that she was not sunk by Axis planes but by four torpedoes from U-73, Capt

Letters



Rosenbaum. - A. Goodenough, Reading.

Mongoose poisoning

I WAS interested to read the letter from R. W. Deakin about the food on offer in HMS Renown at Trincomalee in 1945.

A friend of mine used to tell an amusing story about a stoker (?) who had smuggled a mongoose aboard. When it was discovered, on being charged with the offence he was asked if he had anything to say about the matter.

He said that, feeling sorry for the animal, he had brought it aboard to feed it and added: "It says a lot for the bloody awful scran aboard this ship, because the poor little b—r has died!"

The whole office erupted in laughter and the charge was dropped. - R. Johnson, Burnley.

Gauntlet official?

IN THE last episode of the TV series Hornblower, a crewman was sentenced to "run the gauntlet" for stealing rations set aside for his messmates.

Sixty years ago, in a training establishment, a classmate of mine was given the same punishment for stealing money from a fellow classmate.

His 180 classmates used socks containing soap bars in lieu of the rope ends in the TV show and the punishment was painfully effective.

Was this punishment official, semi-official or "kangaroo"? Does any old master-at-arms have knowledge?

The incident is crystal clear in my mind and I understood it came on orders from our superiors. - D. McClaren, Waterloo.

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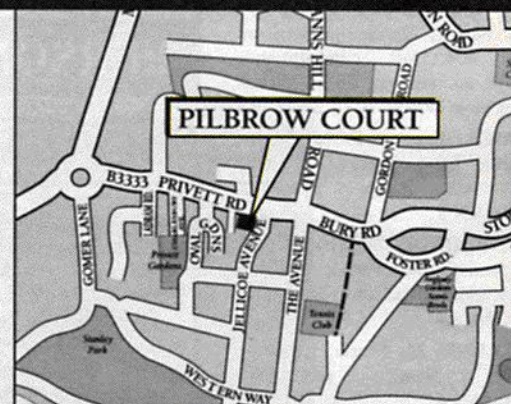
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PLYMOUTH GIRL seeks correspondence with tall GSOH Sailor/Marine (35-45). BOX JAN 6

HI! PLEASE WRITE and make my Christmas. I'm Shelli, I'm 28 yrs old. BOX JAN 7

DUMB BLONDE. Definitely not 22. GSOH. Friendship or more. BOX JAN 8

JILL, 29, Fit, 5'10", brunette, GSOH, Seeks Gentleman. Naval, Penpal. BOX JAN 9

SUE (37) BRUNETTE with GSOH. Seeks Sailor/Marine 32-38 for friendship/relationship. BOX JAN 10

29YR OLD FEMALE Nurse, slim build 5ft 9ins. Lots of fun. BOX JAN 11

CATHY 30, slim, blonde, attractive, life too quiet, brighten my day. A.L.A. BOX JAN 12

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In brief

Memorial trophy

THE FAMILY of the late Lt Jono Nowell, a young Observer tragically killed in a road accident two years ago, visited RNAS Culdrose to present a trophy dedicated to his memory.

After meeting many of Lt Nowell's former colleagues, they presented the award to Lt Lee Kennington (below) who achieved the best certificate of competency results in 820 Naval Air Squadron.



Yacht's 'Mr Fix-it'

THE ROYAL Yacht Britannia was saved from the embarrassment of a late start to one of her last voyages by the ingenuity of a Chief engineer.

New evaporator valves fitted in the yacht's steam-driven engine room wouldn't work and her sailing date was going to be postponed until CPOMEA John Utterson stepped in.

He designed and built a new type of valve, complete with an emergency pressure release facility, and the yacht was able to sail on time.

The repair to Britannia was one of the many examples of Chief Utterson's outstanding work cited at the presentation of a rare clasp to his long service and good conduct medal, marking his 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the Navy.

The honour was bestowed by Cdr David Boggust, CO of HMS Intrepid where Chief Utterson was drafted after eight and a half years as a senior yachtsman.

People in the News



A NEW OVERSEAS post has been created for PO aircrewmembers in Bosnia.

The first man to take up the six-month job at Ilidza Base in Sarajevo was POAC Chris Byrne.

Chris (right) has been in charge of the bookings and safety of around 600 helo movements a month at the headquarters of the stabilisation force in Bosnia.

With him is CRS Melanie Arnott on her second tour of Bosnia. On her first tour in Sarajevo in 1996 the city had been devastated by the war, but today it is getting back to life as a normal European city.



Search for super sailors is under way

THE MARINE Society has launched its annual search for people who have performed exceptional deeds at sea or in the service of seafarers as nominees for the Thomas Gray Memorial Medal.

The 'deeds' may relate to any aspect of professional seafaring and include the well-being of sailors, ships, cargo or the prevention of pollution.

Recent recipients of the medal have included Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Captain Gordon Kent, for preventing the stranding of MV Hope off Falmouth in February 1996 and 820 Naval Air Squadron for the rescue of the yacht 'Touchdown' in the Bay of Biscay in 1997.

The Thomas Gray Trust was founded in 1925 in memory of Thomas Gray, the Senior Surveyor for the Board of Trade in the last century who was particularly concerned with the improvement in professional training of seafarers and in their welfare.

Capt Jeremy Howard, Director of the Marine Society, said: "It is entirely appropriate that Thomas Gray be remembered in this way. He was dedicated to professionalism in seafaring and would thor-

oughly approve of his name living on through this award.

"Seafaring is one of the most exacting of professions and the actions of the many unsung heroes who contribute so much to the nation's well-being deserve recognition."

Nominations for the medal should be sent to Capt Jeremy Howard, The Marine Society, 202 Lambeth Road, London, SE1 7JW. The medal will be presented at the Annual Court of the Marine Society on May 19.

The Marine Society was established in 1756 and is the World's oldest maritime charity. Its beneficiaries include all those who serve, intend to serve or have served in the RN, merchant navy, or fishing and offshore industries.

Angler's latest catch is rarest yet

NAVY angler David Truman has landed a bar to his long service and good conduct medal.

The former Navy and Interservices angling champion (inevitably known as Ben) was presented with the honour by Rear Admiral Peter Spencer, Director General Surface Ships and Controller of the Navy.

Dave joined the RN back in 1966 and was drafted to the daring class destroyer HMS Decoy.

He is now a Warrant Officer working for the Naval Shore Comms / Defence Intelligence Message Handling networks at MOD Abbey Wood.

Memory exercise for first female PTIs

A TRIP to HMS Temeraire brought back some happy memories for eight women who enrolled on the Navy's first ever course for female physical training instructors.

They were among the 14 who signed up for the gruelling six-month course back in January 1978.

Although the course finished over 20 years ago, they were also able to track down Harry Pimblett, who was Chief of Staff at Temeraire while they were there.



The school in Flathouse Road, Portsmouth, is now a centre for gymnastic excellence and after looking around with much reminiscing, they visited the new PTI school at Burnaby Road where the latest box of PT instructors, PTQ39, have just qualified.

After watching their passing out display, the group had time to mingle with contemporaries who are still serving, and were invited to join the course's celebration at the Home Club where they met many more ex-PTIs from the Portsmouth area.



• THEN AND NOW: Some of the first female PTIs to graduate from the PTI school (above left) and (above) those that made it to the reunion in Portsmouth: Julie Doolan, Judy Redgrove, Kathy Fricker, Ethel Brokenshire and (front left) Sharon Brown, Gill Buck, Sylvia Sim and Annette McHugh. Former Chief of Staff Harry Pimblett is in the centre.



People in the News



In brief

Exam help for sailors

THE MARINE Society's College of the Sea has enrolled its first RN student.

Dryad's MEM Stuart Moore (below) signed up for a distance learning maths course to become the college's first Naval correspondent since it gained Forces accreditation.

If you're interested in studying for GCSE or A level maths or English, call Brian Thomas on 0171 261 9535.



Award for test of metal

SULTAN'S Lt Mark Sullivan has won an award from the Worshipful Company of Armourers and Braziers.

Mark (below) analysed cryogenic treatment of commercial brass for the prevention of stress corrosion cracking and his work earned him the prize for the best materials technology project in Southampton University's Engineering Sponsorship Scheme.



Palace date for Joseph

HMS RALEIGH'S Joseph Blessett was invited to St James's Palace to receive a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from Prince Phillip.

Joseph (below) has been involved with the award scheme since 1993 and his achievements have included service with the Scouts, learning classical guitar, a trek in the Lake District and countryside management projects.



Merlin boosts air defences

AIR DEFENCES at RNAS Culdrose have been boosted by a 15-week-old recruit.

The youngster, a merlin bird of prey called 'Magic', has become the latest 'fully-fledged' member of the air station's bird control unit.

In the winter months, flocks of over 2,000 starlings arrive to roost and feed at Culdrose, presenting a major hazard to aircraft. As merlins prey on starlings the unwanted visitors instinctively retreat to safety away from the airfield.

● PROUD MOMENT: Falconer Sahra Hill (left) watches as the CO of 700M Merlin squadron, Lt Cdr Phil Shaw, enlists Magic.

Commodore among women of the year

THE NAVY'S first female commodore was amongst the guests invited to the annual Women of the Year luncheon in London.

The invitation recognised Commodore Muriel Hocking's achievement in becoming the most senior officer in the Royal Naval Reserve, responsible for representing over 3,500 personnel.

"It was an amazing day" said Commodore Hocking. "You couldn't help being inspired by the experience."

Commodore Hocking was appointed almost exactly a year ago, and the occasion gave her the opportunity to reflect on her year at the top.

"My feet haven't touched the ground" she said. "There is just so much going on in the RNR and I never cease to marvel at the quality of the people who serve in the reserve forces."

The last 12 months have seen visits by Commodore Hocking to

all 13 reserve training centres in the United Kingdom.

One of the highlights of the past year was the chance to see reserve forces at work during an exercise off Norway when she transferred between sites by helicopter and rigid raider.

The Royal Naval Reserve is always on the look-out for people aged between 16 and 33 who want a worthwhile challenge in their spare time.

If you are interested, contact your local Armed Forces Recruiting Office to find out more.



● NORWAY: Commodore Hocking visits reservists on exercise

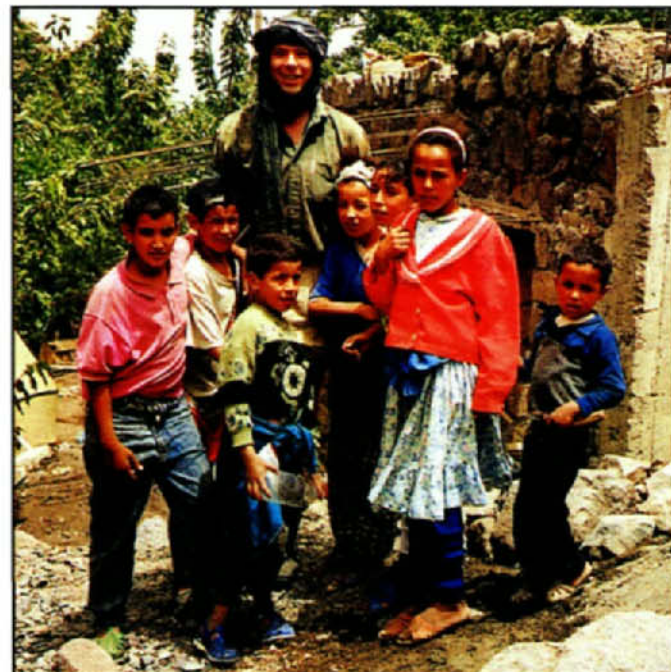
Mercy mission to Morocco

PEOPLE left homeless by a landslide in Morocco were helped during an expedition led by HMS Southampton's Lt Cdr Graeme Rook.

He was in charge of a student expedition to the Toubkal region of the North African country where the homes of more than 6,000 people had been destroyed.

As well as helping with rebuilding work, Lt Cdr Rook led the expedition up to 4,068 metres in the Atlas Mountains and down into the Sahara Desert, where they spent a nervous night amongst snakes and scorpions.

□ HMS Southampton is currently wrapped in plastic and surrounded by a forest of scaffolding at Rosyth, where she is being refitted. She is due to return to active service in the summer.



● MOROCCO: Lt Cdr Rook with children from the Toubkal region, where landslides made 6,000 people homeless.

Services mix in the mess

PETTY OFFICERS in HMS Invincible have elected a member of the Royal Air Force as their Mess President.

Sgt Colin Bowden is the only RAF member of the ship's company and the ship believes that his appointment is the first of its kind.

When he joined the ship he was appointed Mess Secretary but he is now in charge of the largest PO's mess afloat.

Sgt Bowden said: "Routines of mess life are much the same as the RAF... but even after two years on board I still have to ask what some of the less common terminology means, it's a great challenge."

Meanwhile, the Royal Navy has recently given up a unique hold on the Officer's Mess at Army HQ in Northern Ireland.

Lt Cdr Nobby Hall spent 18 months as the only naval officer on the staff of the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland, and was in charge of the mess for six months before handing over to Major Nigel Shepherd.

Major Shepherd said: "Obviously our first action will be to remove all the signs marked 'galley' and re-badge them back to kitchens, and of course 'heads' will be going back to being gentlemen, but apart from that Nobby's done an excellent job and it has been great fun having him in charge."

Lt Cdr Hall, who has also added the phrase 'to be Nobbied' to Army parlance, is now First Lieutenant of HMS Ocean.

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Joint run nets hospital cash

A SUBMARINER helped Shropshire Police raise £500 for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Trust.

Supply Officer Lt Dave Harding, from HMS Talent, was contacted by Sgt Penny Sternbauer, who was running from Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury – the submarine's affiliated town – and offered to accompany her.

The 75-mile run through the Welsh mountains, with support vehicle and a team of police cyclists, was completed in two days, despite atrocious weather conditions.



Visions of Disney

A DAY of "Disneyvisions" at HMS Collingwood raised £830 for Children in Need.

The Guard dressed as a pack of cards (left) while the band played Disney tunes, and apart from various dalmatians and dwarves, Commodore Peter Davies turned up as Commodore Hook, Training Commander Cdr Ray Watts was a jester and Executive Officer, Cdr Paul Morris, was Darth Vader.

Hair-raising fund-raising

SIX TEAMS of New Entry Air Engineering Mechanics held a special It's a Knockout for Children in Need.

The spectacular Halloween show at HMS Sultan included BBC South Today presenter

Harry Gratton.

The competition, which was won by the Dead Pharaohs Society, raised more than £3,100 for the annual BBC charity, and featured in television broadcasts.

Scooter fund tops £11,000

A scooter run from Yorkshire to London last summer helped raise more than £11,400 – and has given a disabled Naval officer some independence.

The Cheesy, Hammy, Eggy Scooter Club "Mad Bish" run took in the affiliated towns and cities of the Fourth Frigate Squadron, ending at HMS Belfast in London.

The target was £8,500 for a Steering Developments powered wheelchair for Lt Phil Tribe, whose back was badly injured in a driving accident in the Gulf while he was serving in HMS Westminster 18 months ago.

Phil, now a tetraplegic confined to a wheelchair, and his wife Nova were invited back to the Type 23 frigate in Portsmouth by Commanding Officer, Cdr Jerry Stanford, to receive the final cheque, which included:

- Nearly £5,000 from the scooter run
- £3,000 from the Squadron and affiliated companies
- £2,500 from RNAs
- £1,000 from Sony.

Also on board were Captain F4, Capt Jamie Miller, and organiser

Revd Mike Brotherton, Fourth Frigate Squadron chaplain, and his scooter The Messiah.

Revd Brotherton said "I joined the Navy to do the sort of thing we did here. The Navy is a family, and Phil is part of the family and always will be."

Phil Tribe paid tribute to Rev Brotherton's tireless efforts, and thanked everyone who joined in.

"This has given me independence, and that will give me my life back and make me fulfilled."



● Civvies on parade – Commodore John Hance greets his wife Jenny as he inspects the civilian platoon which broke with tradition by taking part in Training Divisions at HMS Dryad. The 20 civilians spent a week square-bashing in their lunch-breaks, led by former WOs David Swift and Di Thatcher, and raised more than £1,400 for Children in Need.

In Brief

Chapel finale boosts KGFS

THE ROYAL Naval College choir and orchestra raised £8,431 for King George's Fund for Sailors with a performance of Handel's Messiah at Greenwich.

The event, marking the departure of the Royal Navy from the RNC Chapel, was attended by the Princess Royal and Commodore Tim Laurence.

Charity summit

SAILORS from HMS Exeter have raised more than £800 by walking up Ben Nevis.

Organiser LPT Nekreus and his two "clubbets", OM Forwell and OM O'Connor, led the group of 13 in a sponsored walk for the Cot Death Society.

Arctic challenge

A FORMER CPO diver has taken part in a 500km cycle ride in Norway to the Nordkapp, site of Europe's most northerly lifeboat station.

Laurie Dowell, now a member of Porthcawl lifeboat crew, played his part in securing a total of £60,000, enough to buy an Atlantic class lifeboat.

Aviation support

A TOTAL of £850 raised by the new Directorate of Naval Aviation Support has been split between two charities.

Fiveways, helping athletes with special needs compete in the Special Olympics, and Bristol and South West Children's Heart Circle, each got £425.

Some of the money came from Cdr Gary Duffield's run in last year's London Marathon.

Loose cash

A LINE of loose change around the perimeter of the Fleet Accommodation Centre in Devonport has raised £275 for PLIMS, the Plymouth Immediate Medical Service.

The line, which reached 71 metres, was started by Capt David Tall, Captain Base Personnel.

Shipmates help

THE MOST junior members of HMS Nelson raised £288 on Jeans for Genes Day.

Around a dozen of the two to four-year-olds in the Little Shipmates nursery held a sponsored toy wash.

Club pays call

A GROUP of 30 children from the Variety Club of Great Britain visited HMS Richmond in London for guided tours.

Members of the ship's company also paid a visit to the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond-upon-Thames – the ship has maintained strong links with the home since commissioning.



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● Gathered round The Messiah – from left, OM Mel Gibson (crouching) and MEM Dave Laidlaw (support team), Grant Harbour of Steering Developments, Cdr Jerry Stanford, Revd Mike Brotherton, Capt Jamie Miller, Nova Tribe and Lt Phil Tribe, with Phil's new powered wheelchair (left). Picture: LA(PHOT) Foord (SFPU).

Twice the effort by BRNC

CHARITY efforts were doubly rewarding at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth.

The college donated £200 to the RN Motorcycle Club during its annual fund-raising tour of the country for the BBC's Children in Need. The club

expects to raise more than £10,000 as a result of its trip round Naval establishments.

And the college raised a further £1,000 in a number of initiatives, including a group of Officer Cadets who forfeited a day's pay.



● Bear mountain – organisers and volunteers inundated with bears in Portsmouth. Picture: LA(PHOT) Bunny Warren (2SL).

Bearing gifts for children

NAVY volunteers have weighed in to help bring some cheer to Central American children orphaned by Hurricane Mitch.

Sailors from HMS Nelson came to the aid of Dave Craddock and his wife, organisers of Operation Bearlift, who had been inundated with teddies sent as gifts to the children.

Around 600 of the 25,000 bears arrived in Portsmouth on HMS Atherstone, which had been on trials off the west coast of Scotland.

The bears were sent by air and sea in the middle of last month to provide a little comfort to some of the 85,000 children who in many cases lost everything – including their families.

News in Brief

Argyll – a float

HMS ARGYLL sailed through the streets of London in the shape of a float in the Lord Mayor's Show.

The Type 23 frigate, currently undergoing refit at Babcock Rosyth Dockyard in Scotland, has strong links with the incoming Lord Mayor as his wife, Lady Wendy Levene, launched the ship as sponsor in 1989.

Navy mass

THE FOURTH annual Naval Mass was celebrated in St Barbara's Church, HMS Excellent.

Mgr Tom Burns, the Principal Catholic Chaplain (RN) celebrated the mass, which was attended by Naval chaplains of other denominations, while the Rt Rev Francis Walmsley, Catholic Bishop of the Forces, presided in choir.

The conclusion was an ecumenical Service of Light.

Carrier at show

THE ROYAL Navy will have a major presence at the Big Blue London Boat Show – an aircraft carrier.

The RN stand at the show, which runs from January 8 to 17, is in the shape of a carrier, 24 metres long and nine metres high, with a 16-screen video wall, simulators and detailed models.

The show's advance ticket hotline number is 0121 767 4600.

Stores close

THE RN Stores Depot at Rosyth is due to close on March 31, logistical support in the northern Area being continued from Clyde Naval Base.

For more details see General Defence Council Instruction 275/98.

RNR visitor

THE NEW Flag Officer Training and Recruitment, Rear Admiral John Chadwick, has made his first visit to an RNR unit.

Admiral Chadwick called in at HMS Flying Fox in Bristol to meet Reservists and gain an insight into how an RNR centre operates. He witnessed a typical Thursday evening's in-unit training.

New strategies

BRITANNIA Royal Naval College has hosted the third Strategic Policy Studies Group conference.

Held in conjunction with Exeter University, the 50 delegates explored the idea of a "New British Way in Warfare."

Submarine crew tastes the high life

EIGHT submariners took the opportunity of a spell as support crew to try the high life.

The members of HMS Victorious (Port) crew spent just over a week in the Pyrenees, led by CPO Nigel Burton.

Although used to the gentler slopes around Faslane, the submariners worked through the pain barrier to trek and climb some of the highest peaks in the region, and there were even swarms of midges in the forests to remind them of Scotland.

Their fitness and technique had improved to such an extent that by the last days they were completing a ten-hour trek in under half that time.

As well as an increase in fitness and team spirit, the expedition members were pleased to lose their usual "submariner's tan" of blue-tinged white...

Shake-up planned for Naval football

● Helping out – a team from HMS Monmouth in the Town Hall. From top, MEM Garner, LMEA Sanderson, MEM Yeates and OM(AW) Cook. Picture: LA(PHOT) Chris Brick (SFCU).



Monmouth teams get down to work

LINKS between the historic town of Monmouth and her Naval namesake were strengthened when the frigate conducted a busy six-day visit.

A team of 17 from the ship ran the 153 miles from Devonport to Monmouth, raising more than £1,000 for the ship's charities.

The money was handed over during a children's party on board in Newport.

The ship's football team

beat the local Welsh League side, and a golf team won a charity event.

In addition, Commanding Officer Cdr Paul Lemkes had working parties out on community tasks, including the construction of a path allowing access for the disabled to the River Wye, and the redecoration of a Town Hall room in preparation for a wall-hanging depicting Henry V's links with Monmouth.

Steel query over Hood

AMERICAN researchers believe a weakness in the steel of HMS Hood may have accounted for the sudden loss of the battlecruiser.

Metallurgists think that brittle steel used in the construction of the Titanic may have accounted for her hull bursting open when she struck the iceberg – and records show that the same kind of steel from the same supplier was used in the 46,000-ton Hood.

It has been suggested Hood's hull plates shattered under the strain of an explosion in a magazine, causing her to split and sink while she engaged the German battleship Bismarck in 1941.

Only three of the ship's company of 1,418 survived.

There are now plans for a British company to locate and film the wreck, which lies in deep water in the Denmark Strait.



● Front-line accountants – CINCFLEET is leading the way in the production of resource accounts for the RN under Project Capital. Pictured are CINCFLEET's Chief Accountant, John Hawthorn, with Higher Level Budget staff Lt Cdr Hill, Alistair Howe, Emma Williamson and Joanne Woolf. The challenge is now on for the RN's budgetary chain to use the system to full capability to produce consolidated resource accounts.

ROYAL Navy football is to undergo a major shake-up in preparation for its centenary season in 2004.

The Navy's most popular sport appears to be under-achieving, and a new marketing drive is aiming to raise its profile and introduce a more commercial edge, bringing in sponsorship and seeking to involve some of the big characters of the game.

Capt David Tall, chairman of the RN Football Association, said: "RN football would not be enjoying the great success it has had over a great number of years without the hard work of a great number of people who went before us and are still there."

"But we are moving into the 21st century, and we have been a bit slow in taking full advantage of our success."

That success can be measured in trophies, but also in the fact that wherever a warship goes there is always a local side willing to take on the Navy's footballers.

"We are the most popular and populous sport and have played Association football in more than 50 countries in the last three years – and it could be as high as 80 countries," said Capt Tall.

"We are unbeaten in four seasons in the Inter-Services, and we hold the South West Counties Cup."

The teams play a good standard of football – Capt Tall believes that at least five of the current squad

would walk into a professional squad.

Many of the Combined Services squad is dark blue, and there is a burgeoning women's team which is an integral part of the RNFA.

"They have developed from a knockabout parks side last season to a very impressive group of ladies – and full credit goes to the coach, Lt Cdr Henry Millington, as well as the team," said Capt Tall.

Lt Tony West oversees the the Under 19s group, which feeds the full representative XI which is coached by CPO Steve Johnson.

And the Navy is blessed with a fair supply of officials, including 145 qualified referees.

Capt Tall said: "If anyone has anything to give to the RNFA in any capacity, they should please come forward – we are not a closed shop or clique."

Young guns

A TEAM of young field gunners is planning to help celebrate the centenary of Ladysmith in South Africa.

The Greater Manchester Youth Field Gun Crew, under former LS Frank Willcock, is affiliated to the Portsmouth and Devonport crews and carries out runs with scaled-down equipment.

Frank, a policeman, said 40 youngsters are currently involved, and around 800 in total since they started in 1982.

The group needs to find £40,000 to meet the challenge from South Africa in February 2000.

Ledbury back from tough trip

ONE OF the Royal Navy's smaller warships has returned home after a gruelling 10,000-mile deployment to the Mediterranean.

Hunt-class mine countermeasures vessel HMS Ledbury spent three months in a task group with Belgian, Dutch and German ships.

The first of seven port visits in five countries was Lisbon, where Ledbury had two days of high-profile ship open to visitors.

Next stop was Ancona, where an engineering problem meant a change of programme, followed by two weeks of mine-jamming trials against various German and Italian mines in La Spezia Bay.

Ledbury then rejoined the task group in Izmir, Turkey, for an exercise where, in addition to practice mines, two British buoyant mines from the First and Second World Wars were found and disposed of by the ship's divers.

The group then headed back to Northern Europe through the Corinth Canal, with a visit to Malaga before tackling the Western Atlantic and Bay of Biscay.

Nuclear switch

THE FIRST courses to be run at HMS Sultan by the Ministry of Defence's Department of Nuclear Science and Technology (DNST) were beginning on January 4.

DNST ended training at the Royal Naval College Greenwich in October, when most of the department's staff transferred to Sultan, the Navy's marine engineering school. A small number remained to complete the decommissioning of Jason, the small training reactor.

Details are in General Defence Council Instruction 255/98.

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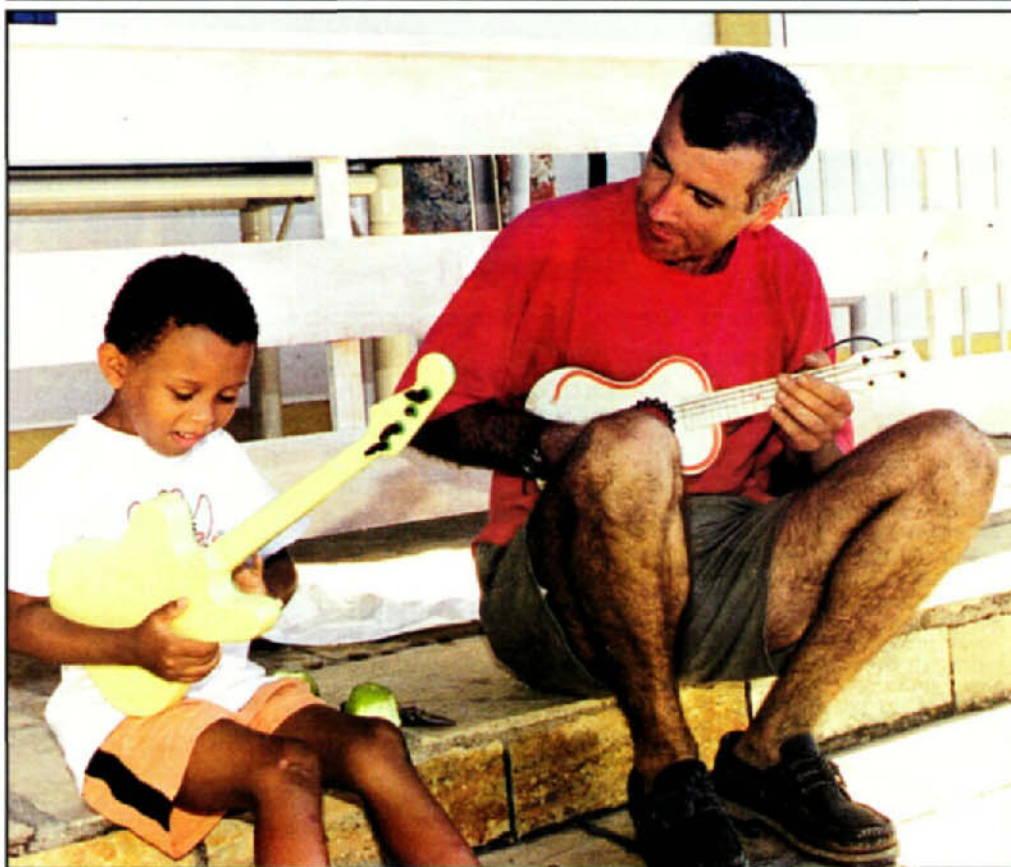
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Warm welcome before colder climes



● In tune – CPOMEA Paul Mayne demonstrates his guitar skills at Casa Jimmy's to a three-year-old rescued from the streets of Rio.

Red Plum brings home comforts

ICE PATROL ship HMS Endurance has been making a impact in warmer climes than usual.

The "Red Plum" spent ten days in Rio de Janeiro as part of British Month.

Her ship's company took part in a Remembrance Sunday service in the city's Anglican church, where the Hydrographic Surveying Squadron chaplain, the Rev Ned Kelly, officiated alongside the locally-based British minister.

Royal Marines Bugler Chris Gisby played the Last Post and Reveille.

Navy personnel also took part in a parade commemorating Armistice Day, and a new war memorial was dedicated by the Brazilian naval minister.

Endurance also provided a 40-strong working party for the Casa Jimmy's hostel for street children, following up work recently started by Falkland Islands Guardships HMS Edinburgh and HMS Sutherland.

The hostel is named after Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page, who bought the building to provide a safe haven for children threatened by child prostitution and drug addiction. It is currently home to three pregnant

teenagers and 15 children aged two and three.

As well as maintenance work on walls and fences, the ship also brought clothes and toys from the British charity Task Brazil.

The ship's company also managed to enjoy the local sights, and a rugby match against an ex-patriate team was played on Copacabana beach.

Endurance then headed south to Montevideo, where she continued the long tradition of providing the six British residents of the local Winston Churchill nursing home with their Christmas cake.

Thoughts then turned to the first work period as the ship approached the Falklands. A shore party was landed at Bleaker Island, where they intend to spend Christmas as part of a six-week boat camp, and as Navy News went to press the ship was planning to continue to South Georgia, where Christmas Day will be spent anchored off Grytviken, 8,000 miles from home.

Triumph picks up a penguin

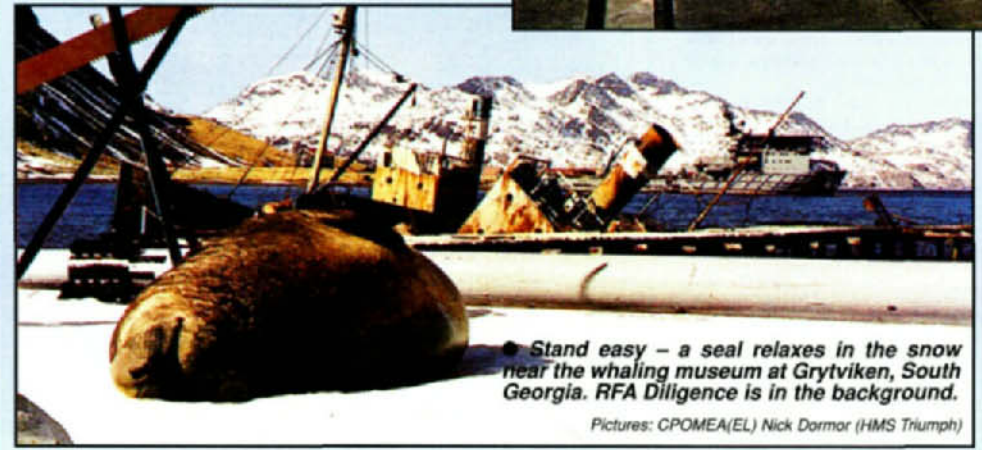
HMS TRIUMPH welcomed a rare visitor on board when the submarine called at South Georgia.

The rare chinstrap penguin hopped on to the casing while the boat was in Grytviken Bay, and spent 20 minutes waddling about and meeting the ship's company.

Triumph's foray to the South Atlantic gave members of the Armed Forces and civilians in the Falklands a chance to sample life at sea in a nuclear submarine.

On her way south the ship visited Ascension Island and St Helena, delivering mail several weeks early, and her journey home took her to the Caribbean and Florida.

● New recruit to the casing party – a rare chinstrap penguin on HMS Triumph at Grytviken.



● Stand easy – a seal relaxes in the snow near the whaling museum at Grytviken, South Georgia. RFA Diligence is in the background.

Pictures: CPOMEA(EL) Nick Dormor (HMS Triumph)

NoticeBoard

Promotions to Chief

AUTHORITY was issued by Commodore Naval Drafting in December for the following to be promoted to chief petty officer:

OPERATIONS (SEAMAN)

To CPO(M) - R.T. Cole (Dryad), L.J. Pearson (Exc. Bristol), M.A. Calton (Excellent).

To CPO(R) - P. Volter (Ark Royal), J.A.I. Behan (RNAS Portland), G. Goldie (Dryad), J. Tremain (Caroline), M.C. Mallaburn (President), N.S. Oldham (ACDS Ops), A.G. Thompson (Somerset), D.M. Dennis (Tracker), K. Hanby (Excellent), I.E.G.

Audley (Birmingham), S.J. De'Ath (Dryad), M.T. Chamberlain (Fearless).

To CPO(D) - C.C. Richardson (SDG Portsmouth), G.S.R. Bean (Det. Exp. Ord. School).

To CPO(S) - D.W. Faircliff (Dryad), S.R. Couch (Richmond), J.L. Kay (Sheffield).

To CPO(SEA) - P.H. Paul (Raleigh), A.R. Watson (Victory), D.M. Robertson (Excellent), J. Lane (Raleigh), A. Coppell (2SL/CNH FOTR), C.H. Cooney (2SL/CNH).

OPERATIONS (COMMUNICATIONS)

To CPOCY - M.J. Harris (Edinburgh), B.

Jenkins (Collingwood).

OPERATIONS (PTI)

To CPOPTI - D. Concannon (RNAS Yeovilton), M. Chumbley (Excellent), I.D. Smith (Cambridge), C.F. Strong (Caledonia CFS).

MARINE ENGINEERING

To CPOMEM(L) - W. Steele (ACDS Ops), C.G. Barr (CFM Portsmouth), K.D. Arnold (FOSF Devonport), E.W. Morris (MOD DFS(CIS) Bath), G.J. Hunt (Drake CFM), K. Kendal (Trenchant), N.J. Maund (Neptune SM1), S.M. Bowles (Captain SM2).

To CPOMEM(M) - J.E. Dymond (Warrior), S. Allan (FOST MPV Sea), P. Ashworth (Sultan), D.C. Carroll (Campbelltown), S.B. Elway (Raleigh), K.M. Stentford (Excellent), A.T. Conway (Newcastle).

WEAPON ENGINEERING

To CPOMEM(R) - H.M. Byrne (Invincible), S.G. McCann (FSU 02), M.A. Swenson (ROCLANT Portugal), D. Cowan (Beaver), D. Cox (FSU 03), W. Tattersall (Drake CFM), S. Copey (York), P.H. Taylor (Illustrious), S.W. Jarvie (ACE Sign. Gibraltar).

SUPPLY AND SECRETARIAT

To CPOSA - A.J. Deacon (Drake DLogs), To CPOSTD - T.A. Smea (Raleigh), P.L. Beasley (Illustrious), R.J. Groom (CINCFleet), To CPWTR - R.J. Groom (CINCFleet), A.M. Horsburgh (Baltap), D.G. Ireson (RNAS Culdrose), J.A. Jacques (RDMC Blockhouse), P.R. Johns (Tireless), P.R. Hutton (King Alfred), G. Gowing (Calloppe), G.P. Baker (Neptune CFS), S.J. Pugh (DNR Pres. Teams).

MEDICAL AND DENTAL

To CPOMA - S.J.L. Bethell (Caledonia CFS), P.L. Harriman (Warrior), I.P. Hubbard (INM Alverstoke).

FLEET AIR ARM (ENGINEERING)

To CPOAEM(R) - S.G. Lematti (801 Sqn.), A.J. Hancock (RNAS Culdrose).

FLEET AIR ARM (NON ENGINEERING)

To CPO(PHOT) - W.S. Humphreys (HORM).

SUBMARINE SERVICE

To CPO(TSSM) - J. Robb (CSST Shore Devpt.).

CPO ARTIFICER/TECHNICIAN

Commodore Naval Drafting has been notified of the following advancements to CPO Artificer/Technician which were made by commanding officers:

To CPOCT(A) - J.I. Kent (JSSU Oakley).

To CPOMEA - L.R. Bennett (Kent), C. Boulton (Superb), J.D. Davidson (CFM Portsmouth), G.N. Jackson (Turbulent), B. Jones (Talent), L.B. Jones (Neptune NT), S. Niven (Vengeance Port), D.J. Redington (CFM Portsmouth), B.C. Short (Triumph).

To ACPOMEA - L.S. Evans (Brave), B. Heaybourne (Birmingham), M.H. Orr (Neptune NT), J.G. Pritchard (Neptune NT), B.D. Richard (Sultan), K.G. Strawford (Talent), M.D. Taylor (CFM Portsmouth), P.R. Waugh (SSBN 07 Sbd.).

To CPOMEA - I.R.D. Buckley (Somerset), D.J. Clark (Somerset), M.J. Collett (Nottingham), C.J. Mather (Drake CFM), L. McDonald (Northumberland).

To ACPOMEA - P.D. Hallett (Nottingham), S.G. Rowlands (Nelson), L.M. Thomas (Captain SM2).

To CPOMT - J.P. Robinson (RH Haslar).



● HMS Charity became Shah Jehan in 1959.

THE TIME OF YOUR LIVES

NAVY NEWS looks back through its pages to recall some of the January headlines of past decades . . .

40 years ago

THE DESTROYER HMS Charity was handed over to the Pakistani navy at a ceremony at Cowes, Isle of Wight. The ship had been bought for Pakistan by the USA under the terms of an aid programme. Charity, a C-class destroyer built in 1944, was to become the Shah Jehan.

Swop drafts

LOM(C) K. Rennie, C. Faculty Admin, HMS Collingwood, drafted HQBFFI, April 26. Will consider any swop.

CH1 Long, CTC Lympstone ext. 4215, drafted HMS Edinburgh, April. Will swop for any Devonport ship deploying or not.

LA/LWTR Tweddle, HMS Warrior (9360 37347) will swop for WTR1 billet in Portsmouth/Gosport area.

CPOMEM(M) Oakley, HMNB Portsmouth ext. 24888, drafted HMS Edinburgh, Aug. (Hull billet, ME 501409). Will consider any other sea-going ship deploying, or NP 1002, or any NP.

LCH Hope, HMNB Portsmouth ext. 27542, drafted HMS Sheffield, April. Will swop for any Portsmouth ship deploying or not.

LRO(T) Pounder, 3Q Mess, HMS Liverpool, BFPO 327, will swop for any Devonport ship deploying or not.

LMEM(M) Haynes, 01705 722472, in HMS Gloucester, deploying June. Will swop for any Portsmouth ship not deploying.

OM(AW)1 Perry, 3R Mess, HMS Gloucester, BFPO 289, deploying June. Will

swop for stretched Type 42 not deploying.

LSA Lenny Godbeer, 3G Mess, HMS Cornwall, BFPO 256, will consider any Plymouth ship deploying or not.

CPOMEM(M), HMS Atherton, BFPO 215 (HMNB Portsmouth ext. 22474), will swop for any Portsmouth Type 23 deploying or not. Current ERD Dec. 2000. ADHULL. Must be MEOOW qualified.

OM(UW)1 Kivell (tel. 078864082), drafted HMS Argyll. Will swop for any deploying Type 23.

RO(G)1 S. Girvan, Arbroath 93387 2075, drafted HQBFFI Common May 11 to Nov. 15. Will swop for any UK common or small ship, preferably Scotland.

AB(EW) Pearson, 3P Mess or EW Office, HMS Glasgow. Will swop for any ship not deploying. Must be OM1 or AB(EW).

Appointments

Cdr T. R. Harris to be CO HMS Chatham, April 27.

Lt Cdr P. R. Cooke to be CO HMS Gloucester, April 27.

Lt Cdr N. J. Hare to be CO HMS Cromer, April 12.

Lt P. K. Ponsford to be OIC URNU Hull, Jan. 26.

Lt D. J. MacKinnon to be CO HMS Smiler and OIC URNU Glasgow, April 13.

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Deaths

POCA Charles Harold Baldwin, HMS Drake, Nov. 18.

LWCH Julia Hazel Pipes, HMS Illustrious, Nov. 19.

AEM1 Brett Poludniowski, 845 NAS (HMS Ocean), Nov. 28.

CH1 Robert Stanley Harding, HMS Monmouth, Dec. 4.

RO(G)1 Carl Dylan Meagher, HMS Fearless, Dec. 10.

Capt Geoffrey Kirkby CBE, DSC and two Bars, served 1936-67. WWII destroyer CO and CO of HMS Tiger during Rhodesia talks on board between P.Ms Harold Wilson and Ian Smith in 1966. Ships: Malaysia, Kingston (DSC for searching for code books in sinking Italian submarine; Greece & Crete evacuation, Malta convoys, Second Battle of Sirte - second DSC). Volunteered to assist in navigation with Long Range Desert Group. CO HMS Melfreak (sank live E-boats, six merchant ships in Channel/W. Approaches; D-Day & Le Havre - third DSC). Far East - liberation Singapore. Staff Officer Ops to FO Malaysia. Postwar: CO of HM ships Crossbow, Charity, Diana; NATO HQ Fontainebleau; XO RNAS Yeovilton; adviser to Pakistani Navy; Director Naval Equipment; CO HMS Tiger. Oct. 24, aged 80.

Cdr Tom Marchant DSC, Flotilla Torpedo Officer and First Lieutenant of destroyer HMS Onslow in defence of Arctic convoy JW51B against German heavy cruisers. Joined as boy seaman 1924, served until 1958. Ships: Queen Elizabeth, Rodney, Hood, Caradoc, Peterel, Defiance, Royal Sovereign (torpedo officer), Onslow (Russian convoys including PQ17), Uriel, Indomitable (Pacific), Wren (CO), Adamant (CO), Directorate of Naval Security 1964-73. Aged 90.

Cdr George Kelly, served 1941-76, joining as steward. Ships: Quentin (survivor), Adamant, Bulwark, Pembroke, Eagle, first RN officer to be appointed college caterer BRNC Dartmouth, mess manager Royal Naval College Greenwich. Treasurer Wimbledon Sea Cadet unit. London branch councillor of Hotel and Catering Institutional Management Association, Nov. 15, aged 76.

Cdr John Mosse, last Chief Engineer of HMS Belfast. Served 1939-59 including Arctic and Med. convoys and Korea. Helped design of Dungeness B nuclear power station, refurbished Madame Tussaud's in London, designed housing for British Antarctic research station. Driving force behind the Firefly Trust seeking to rebuild a working replica of 1840s steam engine. Aged 76.

Lt Cdr Alan Pierce OBE, RD, RNR, anti-submarine CO, active service 1939-46. Ships: Renown (led boarding party from HMS Hereford which captured German blockade runner Uhenfels; also Norway and Bismarck pursuit); CO of HM ships Begonia, Godetia, Bideford, Cygnet. Continued in RNR post-war. Aged 87.

Lt Cdr Paul Leyton DSC, Chief Rocket Development Engineer for 1950s Black Knight project - first British space penetration. Joined RN in 1938 on transfer from RAF. Ships: Argus, Furious (DSC for rescue of pilot

from blazing aircraft). Responsible for system of aircraft maintenance that became standard in RN. Nov. 4, aged 84.

Thomas Manning, Arctic explorer. Joined RCN 1940, helping to direct building of Arctic airfields and advised on development of cold-weather clothing. Nov. 8, aged 86.

Jimmie Ireland, Scottish international rugby player 1925-27. Last surviving member of 1925 team that won grand slam. RM commission 1940. Served in Ceylon and as XO at Marines NCO School, Deal. Former president Scotland RFU 1950-51, and chairman International Rugby Board 1949. Honorary vice president S. African Rugby Football Board, Oct. 25, aged 94.

John Chadwick FBA, served in RN WWII, reader in Classics Cambridge Univ. 1969-84. Collaborated in deciphering Bronze Age Greek script, revolutionising study of Greek. Nov. 24, aged 78.

His Honour Peter Stanley Price, served as lieutenant RNVR in WWII. Served at Dieppe, in India, N. Africa, Sicily, Salerno. OC 1956. N. E. Circuit and Old Bailey judge. Aged 86.

Canon Peter Boulton, served WWII. Later Prolocutor of York Convocation and Chaplain to Queen. Nov. 17, aged 72.

Sr Asher Joel KBE, AO, served in RAN as liaison officer to Gen. Douglas MacArthur 1944-45. Member of Victoria Legislative Council 1947-68. Founded Australia's first public relations consultancy. Nov. 9, aged 86.

Sir David Lane, served WWII as ordinary seaman then as commissioned officer in Med. and Atlantic. Conservative MP for Cambridge 1967-76 and chairman of Commission for Racial Equality 1976-82. Chairman of National Association of Youth Clubs 1982-87. Nov. 16, aged 76.

Cdr William Albert Skeat DSM, RNVR. Joined as boy seaman. Later SBS (Italy), Korea, Yangtze). Nov. 11.

W. E. (Ted) Robinson, ex-L/Tal, served 1938-45. Ships: Hood, Towy, Volage. Aged 78.

Charles Watters, member of Majestic-Caledonia 1937-39 Boys Association. Oct. Philip Thomas Cartwright, ex-AB, served 1947-54. Ships: Formidable, Devonshire, Sparrow (Korea).

Frank H. Moore, ex-AB(R) 1943-46. Ships: Valkyrie, Dauntless, Nov. 3.

Steve Jacobs, ex-CPOGI, served 1926-50. Ships: Empress of India, Impregnable, Royal Sovereign, Revenge, Dundee, Curacao, Nelson, Coventry, Berwick, Chiddingfold, Bigbury Bay, Kestrel. Oct.

Albert Morris, ex-PO served 1918-45. Ships: Carthage, Wu Shan, Cilicia. Founder member (1936) and training instructor Swansea Sea Cadet unit, oldest member of RN Services Association, Swansea. Nov. 14, aged 96.

Norman (Ginger) Rutter, ex-AB, HMS Opportune 1942-46.

Bill Heath, ex-CYS. Ships: St Vincent, Iron Duke, Hood, Wrestler, Geranium, Terror, St Austell Bay, Barrosa. Aged 78 in Edmonton, Canada.

Bas Sines, ex-COXN submariner. Last RN boat HMS Osiris. Served on exchange with RAN in New South Wales 1989-91. Oct.

17 in Australia, aged 49.

Reginald Lewis Dudley, ex-CPO, served 1938-62. Ships: St Vincent, St George, Victory, Enterprise, Cumberland, Asturias, Edinburgh Castle, Mercury, President II, Golden Hind, Belfast, Excellent, Whitesand Bay, President. Nov. 28, aged 76.

Lt Cdr Gerry McGee, torpedo and anti-submarine specialist. Ships: Wakeful, Roebuck, Defiance, Osprey, Flathead, Gambia. Member of HMS Bruce Register. Nov. 10.

John Birchley, ex-Mech1, served 1957-82. Ships: Sultan, Belfast, Wizard, Endurance. Nov. 22, aged 56.

Derek Pownall, ex-PO(OE)(Air), served 1957-72. Member of Angus branch of FAA Association. Nov.

Marty McCambley, Ex-WREN ST (torpedo), HMS Caroline WWII. Post-war service with GCHQ Hong Kong. Widow of T/O Tel. Bill Jewell. Aged 74.

ASSOCIATION OF RN OFFICERS

Capt E. C. Baylison DSC, Ships: Thunderer, Ingolf, Hurricane, Osprey. (We apologise that due to a misprint Capt Baylison was referred to in our December issue as Blaydon).

Lt Cdr (E) H. Bevis. Ships: Erebus, Victorious, Malaya, Wayland, Anson, Duncansby Head, Tamar, Woolwich, Phoenix, Diligence.

Cdr J. B. Burfield MVO, DSC, Ships: Havock, Lochallort, Faulkner, Byron, Royal Arthur, Cowdray, Ganges, RNB Chatham.

Lt A. W. Hardman. Ships: Daedalus, Thunderer, Fulmar, Albion, Gannet, and 892 NAS.

Lt Cdr (S) R. H. Howorth. Ships: Cochrane, Newfoundland, President, Tamar, Phoenix.

Lt (E) R. L. Hulson. Ships: Birmingham, Reclaim, Theseus, Wren, Adamant.

Cdr D. J. B. Jewitt DSC, Ships: Seraph, Keith, Sussex, Ivanhoe, Vimy, Winchester, Hasdrubal, Neride.

Lt Cdr (E) J. R. P. Lansdown. Ships: Triumph and RNAS Belfast and Arbroath.

Lt Cdr J. G. Phillips. Ships: Leander,

£1,000 WINNER

WINNER of the £1,000 prize in the Joker Jack competition which ended with the November issue of Navy News is Mr P. T. Wallace of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

Mr Wallace's replies to the three parts of the competition in our September, October and November editions, were drawn at random from among the correct entries received in time.

He identified Jack's inaccuracies as the third statement in the September edition, the second in the October edition, and the first in November's.

Another contest - with the prize of a luxury holiday at the China Fleet Club at Saltash, Devon - is under way in page 32 of this issue.

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At Your Service



Calling Old Shipmates

LCH(L) No14: Mr J. Blackburn wants to hear from shipmates from the First Flotilla, who took part in most of the landings in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Contact him at 7, Oaklands Park Drive, Rhiwderin, Gwent NP1 9RB, tel 01633 892495.

835 Squadron, broken up HMS Nairana 1945: David Whittick seeks squadron members for May reunion - Brown, Buckie, Clewett, Hankin, Henshall, Holley, Keast, Mathe, Millar, Rolley, Rogers, Smith, Strong, Summers, Thomas, Warren, 10, Westbourne Cres, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 4HD, tel 0141 570 1172, email DWhittick@aol.com

HMS Egeria 1980-81: Nick "Slinger" Woods is seeking anyone who served in the inshore survey vessel from Jan 1980-May 1981. Write to 7, Wordsworth Rd, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3QA, tel 01379 652537.

Andrew McMahon seeks old shipmates from HMS Ganges in Spring 1951 (Jellicoe II and Anson Division), or from the Med Fleet 1952-54 and the Far East 1955-58. Contact him at 108, Balunie St, Dundee DD4 8TX.

Leslie "Chalkie" White, who served in HM Ships Athling, Adamant, Bermuda and Victorious 1943-48, seeks old shipmates. Contact him at 23, Benham Gdns, Hounslow, Middx TW4 5JZ, tel 0181 570 7702.

Denis Wheeler and his wife June, married in April 1957 at Havant, are sought by Jim Denty. Denis and Jim served in HMS Dolphin 1951-53. Any info to Jim at 99, Steatite Way, Lansdowne Park, Stourport, Worcs DY13 8PQ, tel 01299 822522.

Mick 'Curly' Gladden is 60 this month. Mates from HM Ships Ganges, Bulwark and Plymouth are invited to a party in Southampton on Jan 30. Contact A. Senior, Hill Farm, Castle Acre Rd, Gt Dunham, Kings Lynn PE32 2LP, tel 01760 755094.

Loch Quolich and Sister Ships Association: Join the association - reunion in April. Contact Bryan Ricketts on 01922 620494 or 01202 388528.

HMS Glasgow 1952-53: Dennis Le Marquand seeks Tiddly Townsend, Pete Davey, Donkey Bray, Ginger Devonshire and Jock Stuart (ex Stores). Ring 01705 615384.

Overseas Rugby Football Club - Malta 1946-82: Bill Wood wants a reunion for players, committee and supporters in the next two years. Contact Bill at 28, Liverpool Old Rd, Much Hoole, Preston PR4 4RB, tel 01772 562211 (wk) or 01772 203020 (hm).

Ganges Aug 1967, Hawke 250/251/253 (Comms) and Instructors: Dave Matthews (annex), Pomphrey, Craig, Vincent, Spall, Li Pike - for a get-together, ring Smudge (Albin/Ashtar) 0181 941 6020.

RNH Haslar/RNH Bighi 1960-71: POMA Steve Stevenson seeks old friends, particularly Keith Staples (Nottingham) and Colin Atkins (London/Leicester). 19, Worsborough Ave, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 1UY, tel 01925 724360.

HMS Verulam R28, F29: Seeking shipmates who served in her, all commissions. Reunion each June - contact Chris Williams on 01621 816207 after 6pm or at weekends.

Over to You

Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore: Ms D. Potter has photos of Naval headstones and the cemeteries at Singapore and Kanchanburi, Thailand. Contact her at 14, Hunter Drive, Lawford, Manningtree CO11 2EJ.

HMS Warspite: Ray Francis seeks service details of his late father, CPO Leonard Francis, a Chief Stoker in HMS Warspite, Med Fleet 1939-44. Contact Ray at 23, Horsa Rd, Lee, London SE12 9EA.

LCT from Sword Beach: R. Major was wounded during the first assault on D-Day and was taken aboard an LCT which was torpedoed by an E-boat. They were picked up by a destroyer. Does anyone remember the incident or the destroyer? Contact Mr Major at 114, Ravenscliffe Ave, Bradford, BD10 0JY or tel 01274 634979.

HMS Lowestoft F103: Jim Kelly, ex-USN who served in USS William R Rush in the Gulf in 1972 and conducted operations with HMS Lowestoft, wants to correspond with the ship's company. Contact Jim at 53, Jake Tucker Rd, Midland, NC 28107-9359, USA, or email catshill@freeweb.com.

HMS Consort: Does anyone have a copy of the ship's boxing team photo, taken at the Eighth Destroyer Squadron Championship, Hong Kong, 1953-54. Contact Ted Hamison, 37 Ford Park Rd, Mutley, Plymouth PL4 6NU, tel 01752 225470.

HMS Yarmouth: Were you a radio operator during the Cod War? Do you still have photos? If so, contact Paul Hayden, 20 Shepherds Close, Grove, Wantage, Oxon OX12 0NX, email hay1600e@btopen.net

W.J. Buddle, HMS Laurel, Fourth Flotilla: Mrs Nice has a Christmas card sent by W.J. Buddle in 1917, and would like to return it to a member of the family. Contact Mrs Nice, 71 Ramsgate Rd, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2DJ, tel 01843 864816.

St Nazaire Raid, March 1942: How did Lt A.R. Green navigate the fleet of destroyers and MLs 450 miles from Falmouth to a rendezvous with HMS Sturgeon off the Loire, apparently by dead-reckoning and without radar? The success of the raid hung on Lt Green's feat. Contact R.O. Richards, 11 Nelson Place, Lymington, Hants SO41 3RT.

Stokers Manual 1947: Does anyone know where a copy can be obtained? Contact S. Davies, 17 Ash Grove, Hengoed, Mid Glamorgan CF82 7JN.

Henry Grainger, Engine Artificer 4th Class served in HMS Victory and Perseus 1951-53, and died before Mrs Morris could get to know him as they were adopted by different families. She seeks photos of him or his ships. Contact Mrs Morris at 3 Eric Long Court, Kennedy Drive, Eldene, Swindon, SN3 6DA, tel 01793 485231.

HMS Belfast, Far East 1961-62: An 8mm film of 1 hour duration and a record of the 18-month commission was shot by the School on board. If anyone knows where that film is, please contact E.E. Smith, Muttieburys Mead, Chard St, Thorncombe, Chard, Somerset TA20 4NB, tel 01460 30651.

Bilsdean: R.K. Barrett joined this trawler as an O/S. The day after trawler Ellesmere was sunk with the loss of all hands, he was told he should have joined Ellesmere but, through lack of experience, the man he replaced was posted to her instead. Can anyone corroborate this? Contact Mr Barrett at 10, Firstway, Raynes Park, London SW20 0JD, tel 0181 542 8319.

HMS Vengeance 1945: Does anyone know the whereabouts of the original ship's bell and if it would be possible for the Ship's Association to obtain it? Contact Lew Lewis, 122 Mill Lane, Portlaid, Sussex BN41 2FH.

Royal Naval Patrol Service: Can anyone help with info on memories of bases and ships in WWII: Calliope (Rotherham), Wildfire (Dunbar), Stag (Hopper 42), Sphinx, Sheba (Victorian/Lydney), Nimrod (Bretwalda)? Also interested in school for Stokers at Europa and RNPS Engineering Manual. Flatage refunded. Contact Miss H. Godber, Post 1, Longfield House, 18-20 Uxbridge Rd, London W5 2SR.

A Naval Occasion, a poem written by a Surg Cdr in a convoy from Greenock to Bombay, sold at 6d a copy with proceeds sent to survivors of Courageous: Does anyone have a connection with convoy ships, or is there a related association who would like a copy? Contact B.R.A. Murray, Quayhaven, 93 Petersfield Rd, Bournemouth BH7 6QH.

HMS Wakeful, sunk off Dunkirk, 1940, by E-boat. George Goddard's uncle, PO Herbert Drake, was lost - any survivors or anyone who knew him or any info on the sinking, contact George at 26a, Orchard Valley, Holton, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8LX.

HMS Goodall: V.S. Ould is researching her working life from Oct 1943 to her loss 29 April 1945, and wants to hear from anyone who served in her or ships involved with her (Honeyuckle, Cotton, Anguilla). Write to Laburnum House, Old Main Rd, Fleet Hargate, Lincs PE12 8LL, tel 01406 42420.

WW1 naval memorabilia: Clint Williams has a range of items, including an album of signals over the German surrender, deck plans of German ships and photos leading up to the surrender of the German fleet at Scapa Flow. He is willing to swap for Police and Star Wars memorabilia. Contact him at Willow Court, Carr Meadow, Clayton-le-Woods, Preston PR5 BHS, tel 01772 313046.

HMS Kilchrenan 1943-45 Atlantic Convoys: Ex-leading Officers Cook Ron Nicholls (Yorky) wishes to contact old shipmates. Tel 0121 804 1393.

HMS Excalibur: Did you train here prior to training as Air Mechanic? Contact George Rose about a reunion this year - he has photos of Benbow and Blake classes 46. Contact him on 0151 677 2509, or at 31, Mallard Way, Moreton, Wirral L46 7SJ.

HMS Tiger: Shipmates who served 1977-78 interested in a reunion in April/May contact John 'Jock' McIlmmond on 01935 423151, Phil 'Jona' Jones on 01482 784340 or Steve 'Sherbie' Barrett on 01705 345356.

HMS Fortar: Can anyone help Allan Kerr trace L/S Frank Mayo, with whom he spent many hours in a Carley float after Fortar was sunk. Contact ex-Midshipman Allan RNR, Westshore, Ballachulish PA39 4JX.

Electrical Apprentice 1950 series 10: Reunion next year - seeking Dodds, Lightbody, Constable, Ewbank, Parker, Cook, Davies, Porter, Green, Chandler and all. Ring Brian Watson on 01752 777042.

HM Submarines Taku 1941-44 and Trident 1944-45: Joe Stevenson wants to hear from those who sailed with him. Contact Joe at 34, Havelock St, Sheffield S10 2FP.

HMS Venerable: Were you a TAG who served with 814 Sqn Barracudas aboard Venerable? Contact Barr Redfern, 64 Coppice Rd, Talke, Stoke on Trent ST7 1UA, tel 01782 784876.

HMS Mohawk 1966-72: Peter Colville seeks Colin 'Cleb' Warren, Peter Watkins or Watkins, Keith 'Lottie' Hough and 'Ginge' Hymer or Haymer. Write to 31, South Everard St, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5HJ.

HMS St Brides Bay 1959-60: Any PCs and 'Scouse' Reynolds, Freddie Beal, Ben Balance - write to Carl (Lemmy) Lemkes at Dungeness, Woodland Way, Golspie KW10 6TU, telephone 01408 633532, or email Lemkes@btinternet.com

HM Submarine Tally-Ho: John Perkin (LRO) seeks shipmates from the last commission before she went for scrap - how about a reunion? Contact John at 30 Rhind St, Bodmin, Cornwall PL31 2EL.

QARNNS celebrates 100 years of royal patronage in 2002, and proposals are in hand to celebrate this milestone. A project is under way to raise funds to refurbish the Chapel of the Holy Martyrs in Portsmouth Cathedral, as a memorial to those who served in the Naval Nursing Service. If medical, dental, medical services and QARNNS personnel, serving, reserves and retired, wish to contribute, please forward to the QARNNS 2002 Fund Treasurer, Room 133, Victory Building, HMNB Portsmouth PO1 3LS. Cheques to QARNNS 2002 Fund. Also seeking personal and anecdotal accounts from serving and ex QARNNS for inclusion in QARNNS archives: items of interest at the same address.

■ Material submitted for this page should be brief, clearly written or typed, and addressed to The Editor.

■ Entries are free of charge.

■ Items cannot normally be repeated.

■ Reunions appear in date order, and requests to place an entry in a particular edition cannot always be met.

■ There may be a delay before items appear, due to the volume of requests.

■ Items pertaining to commercial work, books and publications for profit may be declined through lack of space - in such circumstances the advertising department can help with a paid-for advertisement; contact 01705 725062.

Reunions

January

The Fast Minelayers Association will meet on January 25 at the RBLC Kennington. Details from Ray Moore, 89, Watling Rd, Norwich NR7 9TG, tel 01603 437652.

February

HMS Penelope Association reunion is in February. Ex-members of the cruiser or frigate are welcome. Contact Mike Bee, 1 Oddfellows St, Mirfield WF14 9AB.

St Austell Bay Association reunion is on February 27 in Cheltenham for anyone who served in the ship from 1945-56. Details from Doug Hughes, 19 Kipling Rd, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 7DJ, tel 01242 691259.

March

Area 3 RNA reunion is at the Trecarne Hotel, Babbacombe on March 5-8. Details from Brian Hall, 39 Hillfield Rd, Selsey, Sussex PO20 0LB, tel 01243 604273.

RN Communications Association AGM is at the Baring Bowring Park, Liverpool, on March 6. Details from Geoff Ferguson, 4 Mount Pleasant, Back Rd, Calstock, Cornwall PL18 9QL, tel 01822 833412.

HMS Nairn 1940-42 Association reunion is on March 12-14 at the Holiday Inn, Cambridge. Contact Bill Willis, 8 The Biggon, Duxford, Cambridge CB2 4SQ, tel 01223 834984. Ex-Nairn are asked to get in touch.

HMS Cassandra Association reunion is at the Stratton Hotel, Blackpool, from March 26-29. Contact Bob Shead on 0114 230 7007 or Joe Ince on 01705 375945.

Malta 1979-1999: A reunion to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the RN's final departure from the island will be held on March 25 to April 1. Details from Oliver

Wright, 1, Denham Close, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL64RN.

HMS Undine - Urchin Association in company of **Ursa, Ulster and Ulysses** reunion is at Blackpool on March 27-30. Contact Stan De'ath, 28 Main St, Sewstern, Grantham, Lincs NG33 5RF, tel 01476 860833.

April

Hood Division Air Artificers Apprentices 1943-46 reunion in April. Still seeking unfound "Hoods". Contact Dave Lane, Yeovil 01935 47564.

HMS Revenge 1939-42 reunion April 9 at Portsmouth. Details from Len Rose, 01903 767592.

HMS Cossack Association L03 and D57 reunion is at the Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne, from April 9-11. Details from Geoff Lilley, 7 Crowland Close, Ipswich IP2 9BB, tel 01473 682836.

HMS Pearl Crew Association 1935-46 reunion at Padstow near Burnley on April 9-10. Details from Geoff Lancashire, 1 Rowsham Court, South Hill Ave, Harrow, Middx HA1 3NX, tel 0181 422 2357.

HMS Burnham (1940-44) reunion at Burnham on Sea April 9-11. Details from Sam Langford, 50 Drew Gdns, Greenford, Middx UB6 7QG, tel 0181 902 9001.

HMS Kenya Association reunion is at Llandudno on April 9-12. Details from W. Boardman, 35 Holmeigh Rd, Childwall, Liverpool L25 2SA, tel 0151 487 0093.

Far East Prisoners of War and Lisbon Maru Survivors reunion at Pontins, Weston-super-Mare on April 16-18. Contact Alf Hunt, 110, Otton Boulevard East, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 7ND, tel 01934 622548.

HMS Ruler/885 Sqn FAA Association reunion at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on April 16-19. Details from John Robson, 01232 796538, or Ted Restall, 20, Millers Drive, North Common, Warrimley, Bristol BS30 8YH tel 0117 932 7074.

HMS Crossbow reunion is at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, on April 23. Members from all commissions are invited with partners. Details: Barrie Edmonds on 01704 214232.

HMS Gravelines Association reunion at the Royal Fleet Club, Devonport, on April 23-24. Details from John Macpherson, 161, Granby St, Plymouth PL1 4BL, tel 01752 212915, or Ray Whittington, 102a Victoria Ave, Newport, Gwent NP9 8GG tel 01633 221688.

HMS Speaker reunion is at the Birmingham

Nautical Club on April 24-25. Details from Neville Jones, 36, Quanton Court, The Esplanade, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2HH, tel 01278 785905.

HMS Virago reunion, Blackpool on April 26-29. Details: N. Darbyshire, 9, Maveen Court, Stockport SK2 7BG, tel 0161 4564343.

HMS Maggie reunion at the Crimond Hotel, Southport, on April 30 at 7.30pm. Contact Tom Iddon on 01704 541567.

May

HMS Peacock U96 (44-54) and P239 (83-97) in Hong Kong: Reunion May 1-3 at Royal Leamington Spa. Details from E.T. Collier, 8, Aston Lane, Remenham Hill, Henley, Oxon RG9 3EL, tel 01491 574241.

HMS Royal Arthur Association (Skegness & Corsham) reunion May 6-9. Contact Mick Holness, 10, Queensbridge Drive, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8HP, tel 01227 361961.

HMS Petunia 1941-46 reunion at the Angel Hotel, Leamington Spa, May 7. Details from Gordon Shaw, 821, Dorchester Rd, Upwey, Weymouth DT3 5LB, tel 01305 813372.

HMS Wren Association reunion (all commissions) is at the Royal George Hotel, Knutsford, on May 8-9. Details from L. Owen, 15, Field Close, Westbury, tel 017072 56553.

Amphibious Bombardment Association: A newly-formed association for ex-members of wartime COBUs, 881 COB Bty RA(V), 95 AO Regt RA, 29 Cdo Lt Regt RA (20 Bty), 95 Cdo Lt Regt RA (148 Bty), 95 FOU, 148 Cdo FO Bty RA, NGLSO section CVHQ RA, NGS Tp 289 Cdo Bty RA(V). Open day on May 8 at RM Poole. Details from CRS Mick Jepson, 148 Cdo FO Bty RA, RM Poole, Hamworthy, Poole BH15 4NQ, tel 01202 202276.

HMS Hermione Association reunion at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal on May 14-16. All commissions welcome. Details from the Secretary on 01925 824504.

HMS Warspite Association reunion at the Hotel Prince Regent, Weymouth, on May 14-16. Details from Reg Foster, 01753 653915.

HMS Faulkner Association reunion at Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth, May 18 - 20. Contact Carl Heller, 89, Bowers Rd, Benfleet, Essex SS7 1BH.

HMS Gloucester 1939-41 reunion at the Royal Fleet Club, Devonport, on May 21-23. Details from Ernie Evans, 3, Lake View Rd, Sevenoaks TN13 3EH, tel 01732 456686.

In brief

Search for missing men

THE RESCUE helicopter from HMS Gannet was scrambled to search for four men who went missing in the Sound of Iona.

The helicopter from 819 Squadron lifted off at 0415 on December 13 after a report that a dinghy carrying five men across the Sound had capsized.

On arrival, one man was found dead and another had swum ashore, but conditions were poor and the search for the remaining men proved fruitless, despite help from Stornoway's Coastguard helicopter and local vessels.

King Alfred comes top

THE COMMUNICATIONS department at HMS King Alfred has won the Francis Cup.

They scooped the award after defeating five other Naval Reserve teams in a competition designed to test their professional skills at HMS Collingwood.

The trophy was presented by Rear Admiral John Chadwick, Flag Officer Training and Reserves.

MOD civvies sent to sea

SEVENTY MOD civilian support staff from Devonport spent a day at sea with HMS Norfolk.

The trip gave the group, from the logistics, port management, base personnel, safety and fleet maintenance directorates, a unique insight into the Navy's work.

The visitors enjoyed a tour of the ship and demonstrations of seamanship, firefighting, operations room work, a resupply at sea with RFA Olwen and a live gunnery firing.

Recruiting campaign

THE ETHNIC recruiting team's latest target was the town of Peterborough.

And CPO Tony Fernandes and LS Whiskey Walker had plenty of help in grabbing people's attention.

They were backed-up by the Corp of Drums from the Royal Marines Band Portsmouth and the RM's Visibility team led by Sgt Paul Basford.

DEFENCE SECRETARY TAKES SWORD TO 819 NAS

DEFENCE Secretary George Robertson (right) was at the sharp end during a visit to 819 Squadron at HMS Gannet.

He is pictured at the presentation of the Wilkinson Sword of Peace to squadron CO, Lt Cdr Jock Alexander (right) for the unit's outstanding efforts to foster good relations with the public, as reported in November's *Navy News*. Malcolm Ordever (centre) is the General Manager of Wilkinson Sword Ltd.



Sign up for adventure in Ethiopia

VOLUNTEERS are needed for one of the Service's most ambitious adventurous training exercises for many years.

Ninety personnel are being sought for 'Ethiopian Challenge 1999' which involves rafting the Blue Nile, the first descent of the Beshillo River and a 480km overland trek.

The first phase starts in September with a 750km voyage in inflatable rafts from Lake Tana to Sirba, a repeat of the Joint Services Great Abba expedition of 1968.

The Blue Nile has an awesome reputation and the remote gorge which it traverses will make the white water trip a real challenge, with teams having to be self-sufficient for up to ten days at a time.

As well as contending with the water hazards, hippos and crocodiles abound, and the crews will be camping at the water's edge every night.

In October, the next phase will retrace the steps of the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867/8 with a 480km hike from Zula in Eritrea to Magdala.

The route will take them through one of the most stunning

but least visited areas of the world with breath-taking vistas over mountainous terrain.

The final phase will see an attempt to complete the first ever raft descent of the Beshillo River, one of the main tributaries of the Blue Nile.

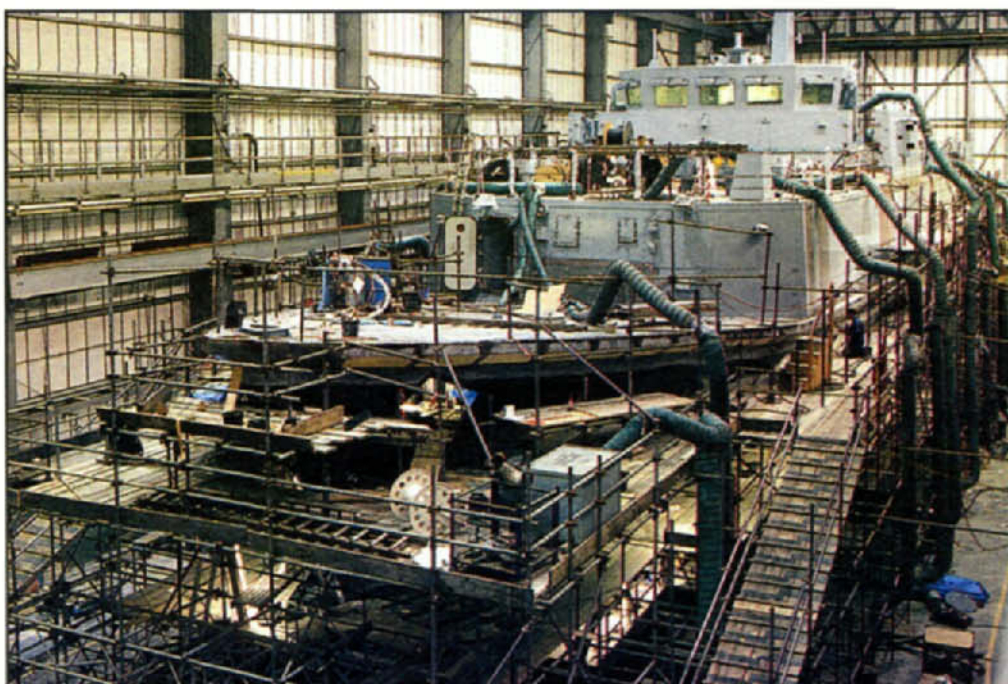
The phases should allow those who cannot complete all three to sign up for one or two, and it is anticipated that about 35 Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel will be in the country at any one time.

The main requirement is for fit people who can make a personal contribution of £200 to £600, but those with specialist kayak, mountain, signals, medical, scientific and vehicle skills are also needed.

Selection begins in February. For details contact Capt R Finley RM on 01329 414168.

MINEHUNTER IS TAKING SHAPE

THE NAVY'S new minehunter HMS Bangor is taking shape at Vosper Thornycroft's Woolston yard. The ship (below) is the fourth of seven batch two Sandown-class MCMVs, and is due to be launched in April. Picture: LA(PHOT) Gary Davies, FOSF Photographic Unit.



Birmingham reservists move out

BIRMINGHAM Royal Naval and Royal Marines Reserves have moved to a new HQ on the crest of Garrison Hill.

A Sea Cadet band accompanied 150 personnel as they marched from their old Camp Hill base HMS Forward to the new site in Tilton Road which overlooks the city.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham was the guest of honour at the dedication of the new unit which took place in front of 400 guests.

Dinner date

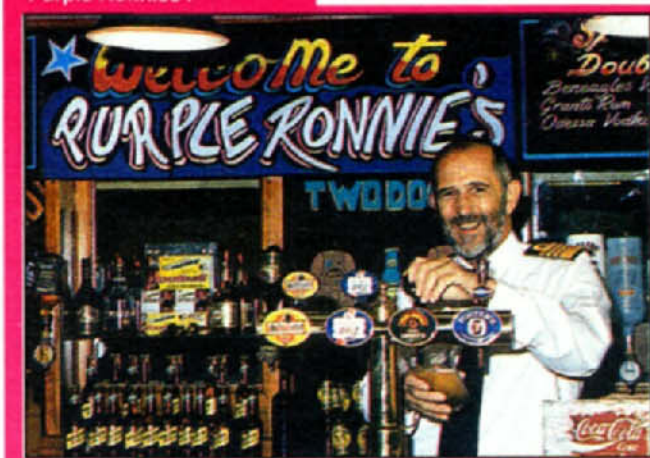
LONDON University RN Unit provided the guard of honour for the election banquet held by the Worshipful Company of Bakers.

And the URNU's CO, Lt Cdr Tim Hulme, was a guest at the event in the city's Mansion House.

New look for Warrior club

THE NAAFI Leisure Club at HMS Warrior has reopened after a £55,000 refurbishment.

C-IN-C Fleet Admiral Nigel Essenhigh (below) was invited to pull the first pint at the newly-named 'Purple Ronnies'.



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The Royal Navy in the Gulf



Grafton returns after Far East trip

FRIGATE HMS Grafton was due home just before Christmas after a long deployment to the Gulf and Far East.

As *Navy News* went to press, the Duke-class ship was sailing back to Portsmouth after more than eight months at sea.

Four months were spent in the Gulf supporting UN sanctions against Iraq.

She also carried out port visits in Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Oman.

The next four months of her deployment was taken up with visits to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and India.

While in the Far East Grafton took part in a "Britain in Singapore" week, and a fashion show promoting British designs took place on board, with members of the ship's company performing with panache on the catwalk.

A further three weeks in the Gulf on her way back to Britain completed the ship's duties, and on the way home she visited Eilat in Israel and Gibraltar, where the new Commanding Officer, Cdr Bob Sanguinetti, took over from Cdr Nick Stanley.

The deployment has been viewed as a great success - with one tragic exception.

During exercises with the Singapore Navy, Grafton's Lynx helicopter crashed into the sea, and the Flight Observer, Lt Toby Beale, was killed in the accident.

Portsmouth-based HMS Grafton was the second Type 23 frigate to take up Armilla duties, one of the Royal Navy's longest-running patrol commitments.



● HMS Cumberland: As *Navy News* went to press the ship was heading for South Africa for a short break before rejoining HMS Boxer on the Armilla Patrol in the Gulf.

Boxer on alert as bombers hit Iraq

AS BRITISH Tornados attacked Iraq on the second night of Operation Desert Fox, Naval Task Group Commander Captain Richard Ibbotson spoke directly to *Navy News* from the Northern Gulf.

Amidst speculation that HMS Boxer could be called upon to support American vessels engaged in the offensive,

Capt Ibbotson said: "That is a possibility, of course but the truth is that the tasking is developing hour-by-hour."

"Our own tasking has changed a lot over the last 24 hours so who knows what it is going to be."

Whatever role the Type 22 frigate is asked to play, Capt Ibbotson said that the ship was ready for any eventuality, even though she arrived in the Gulf just ten days before the first wave of 50 Tomahawk missiles struck air defence, weapons sites and intelligence targets inside Iraq.

He said: "The ship has recently come from a work-up, operational sea-training and a string of exercises which led up to deploying and on the way out we had mobile training teams with us from Flag Officer Sea Training."

"So we couldn't be better prepared for the tasks ahead. If we are in theatre, and this task has to be done, I think that I speak for everybody when I say that we are delighted to be out here doing the job properly. We feel we have got a lot to offer and we want to be useful."

As Boxer's alert status remains high, RFA Brambleleaf has been moving up the Gulf from Oman where she was on station at the start of Operation Desert Fox.

Captain Ibbotson said: "Brambleleaf is one of the ships deployed for Gulf operations. I'm not sure that it will be necessary to bring her into the Northern Gulf, that's a tactical issue."

"But she will certainly be joining

us and providing her input, not only to me, but to the various American assets which are out here."

Captain Ibbotson was the commander of a minesweeper during the Gulf War and has found himself in his element during Operation Desert Fox.

He said: "It's a bit of déjà vu, certainly. It was interesting to be almost in the same geographical position on the night of the first Tomahawk firings as I was some eight years ago."

"Whether or not my minehunting experience here proves useful, only time will tell!"

After arriving in the Gulf to join the Armilla Patrol with HMS Cumberland, who is now heading for a break in South Africa, Boxer put in at Bahrain for her first stand-off and briefings by US forces.

Since then, the 280-strong ship's company have been busily involved in enforcing UN sanctions against Iraq through boarding operations, and the ship has already caught one vessel suspecting of breaking the trade embargo.

Premier: Security of world is under threat

PRIME MINISTER Tony Blair announced renewed attacks on Iraq with a warning that world security was threatened by Saddam Hussein's actions.

Speaking in Downing Street, Mr Blair said that the military action he and President Bill Clinton had sanctioned could have been avoided, but Saddam continued to develop weapons and threaten his neighbours.

"For the safety and stability of the region and the wider world, he cannot be allowed to do so," said Mr Blair.

"If he will not, through diplomacy, abandon his weapons of mass destruction programme, it must be degraded and diminished by military force."

Mr Blair spoke of the onerous responsibility upon a prime minister who has to ask British service personnel to risk their lives for the sake of peace and stability in another part of the world.

But he promised that "British involvement will be significant, and I thanked them for their bravery and their professionalism."

The Prime Minister said that a previous attack, launched in mid-November, was abandoned when Saddam offered full and unconditional co-operation with United Nations weapons inspectors, carrying out monitoring under UN resolution 687 which was passed at the end of the Gulf War.

He said the fact that a UN report told of further obstructions made the strikes inevitable.

"It shows quite clearly, one more time, that Saddam has no intention whatever of keeping to his word," said Mr Blair.

"He is a serial breaker of promises."

Defence Secretary George Robertson, speaking during the air strikes on Baghdad, said the "brave, professional" Service men and women were pursuing a "just and important cause."

"We, like so many people in the world, would have preferred a peaceful solution."

"But Saddam Hussein left us no alternative."

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● RFA Brambleleaf, pictured here with HMS Edinburgh on an earlier deployment.

'A clear path to follow' – 1SL looks ahead

A few short weeks into his new role as First Sea Lord, as RN warships are once more committed in the Gulf, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce gazes into the crystal ball for *Jim Allaway*, offers an upbeat forecast for the Navy post-2000, delivers a stark warning to the likes of Saddam Hussein – and worries over where to draw a line in the sand ...

We are fortunate in having a clear path to follow over the next few years. In the conceptual sense at the very least, we are ahead of our European colleagues – and I believe they are very jealous of what the Strategic Defence Review has given us ...

"It was a defence review that was strategic and not Treasury-led. Whereas if you look at some of the other countries which are going through the defence review process – Germany, France and Holland, for example – they've been given a cash limit and they've got to work out what they are going to do underneath it."

"Because of this – and because I believe we have the best Armed Forces in the world – we are often that much further ahead in heading for the world's trouble spots and getting on with the job."

"Some countries are a bit slow off the mark, for one reason or another. So I suspect we will go on being to the front when it comes to global security. And we will continue to be busy. Nothing that has happened over the past few years since the Soviet empire disintegrated leads me to think that things are going to get any quieter – indeed I suspect the reverse will be true."

"There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of operations we have taken on in that period. And because the Government wishes to be committed on a global scale, the Navy is either out there already or able to get there more expeditiously than anyone else, ready to play our part."

"Against that, I have to watch very carefully that we don't over-commit ourselves and cause an already hardworking organisation to be worked over-hard. It is my firm intention to keep sensible the balance of commitments against resources. We have adjusted our tasks east of Suez to take account of this – and the fact that HMS Marlborough is sailing for her next commitment, which is the West Indies, after Christmas rather than before is a good example of putting our money where our mouth is."

"Quality of life is a top Navy Board priority. People will say 'Oh

he would say that', but that is the tape measure I hold against everything we are asked to do these days."

"Working in collaboration with our allies will help here. We need to spread the load and I am sure we are going to see a lot more of that. There's a new plan to have a standing mine warfare force in the Mediterranean in which we will play our part. And we will see the importance of the current Standing Immediate Reaction Forces in NATO reinforced as well."

"I think we will also see further developments in the way we collaborate with France. We already operate a good deal with the Marine Nationale on a bilateral basis and we will see a lot more still on a European basis, but within the framework of NATO command and control."

"Over the past year we have operated with the French off the west coast of Africa, as with the frigate *Surcouf* when we were standing by to help with a potential non-combatant evacuation down there."

"In the West Indies, in addition to the US, we already operate with the Dutch, and hope to do the same with the French, in combating the drugs trade. And during the Honduras/Nicaragua disaster relief effort we were able to help out by refuelling the helicopter carrier *Jeanne d'Arc*."

On operations, freshest in our minds, of course, are the efforts of HMS Ocean, HMS Sheffield, 45 Cdo and RFAs Black Rover and Sir Tristram in those disaster relief operations; but the highlight has got to be Iraq and Operation Bolton, which is still going on and, even as we speak, Operation Desert Fox is under way.

"So the news is still hot there – and is going to be at the top of our

agenda as we go into 1999."

"As always, we have a duty carrier ready to deploy to the Gulf if she's required – and now HMS Splendid is Tomahawk-qualified, giving us another asset to be brought to that particular theatre, if necessary."

"Tomahawk is a whole new capability which takes us into another realm of warfare. And it brings something else to the table to complement what other countries offer in the way of contributing to international peace and order."

"It's not the only good news on the equipment front, though. We're certainly in good shape for our replacement amphibious shipping to come in on time. Our new

'We are often that much further ahead in heading for the world's trouble spots and getting on with the job.'

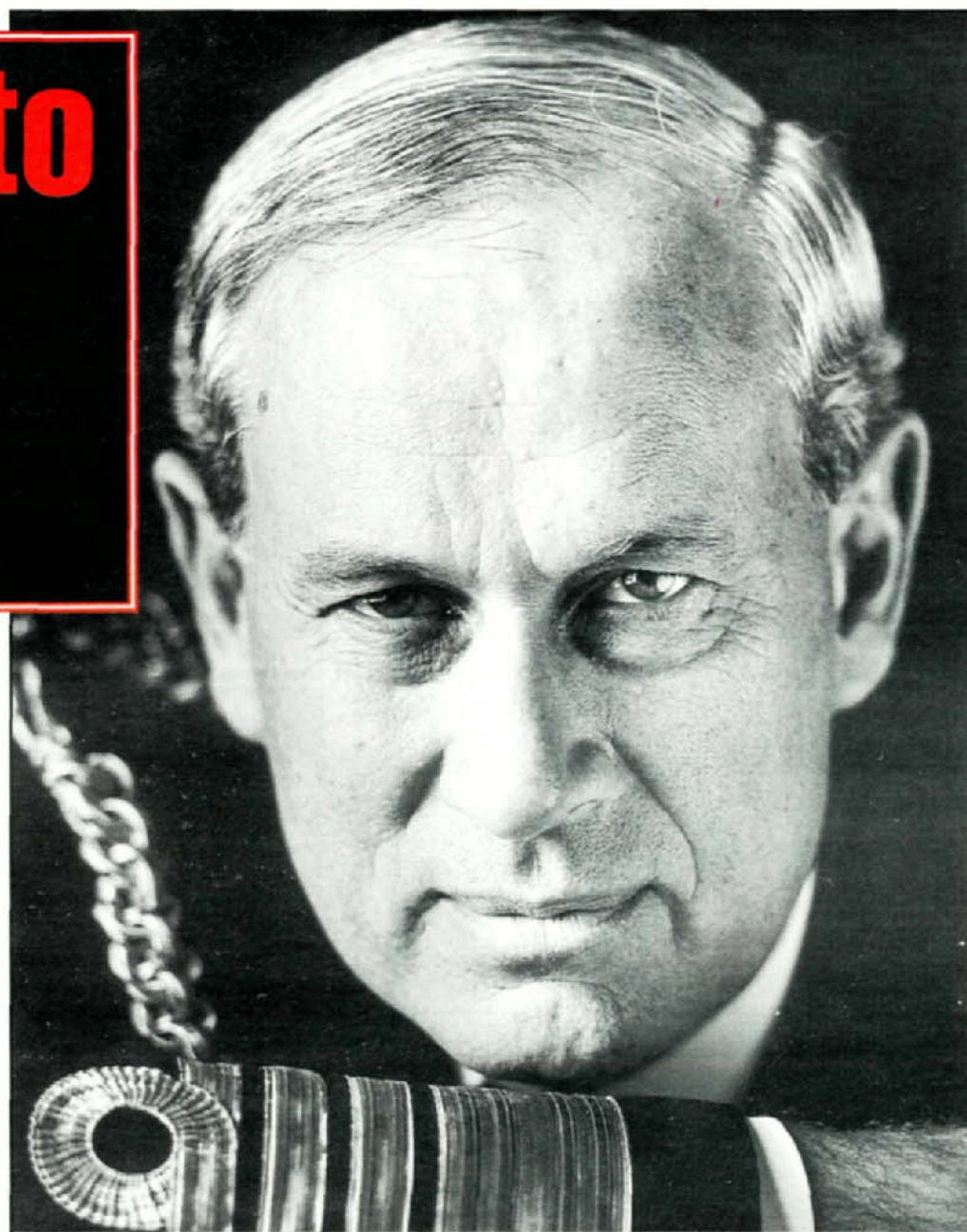
Astute-class attack submarines are on track. And there's a lot of momentum behind the new carriers. I fully anticipate that we should get the next tick in the box for the next phase of the studies for those very shortly."

"Other new SDR initiatives are progressing faster still – particularly in 'jointery'. You will have seen the Joint Force 2000 command and control structure has been accepted – indeed you ran an article in November about an admiralty within Strike Command looking after our maritime wing."

"The joint helicopter command is moving apace, too, as is the Chief of Defence Logistics. And during 1999 we should see many of the exciting joint initiatives up and running in one form or another."

"All these things depend on quality people to make them work, of course – and so recruiting is something we need to keep our attention focused on all the time. At the moment it is going reasonably well, with a couple of exceptions in certain branches. By and large the recruiting pipeline is pretty full. The trouble is, we have a lot of gaps in the Navy and we need that pipeline virtually full just to be able to stand still, let alone to catch up on the gapping problem."

"But if we can sustain our current recruiting rate – and not suffer a bad premature voluntary release scene – then 2002 could see us back in a stable manpower situation. To that end, it's important to realise that everybody in the Navy is



● "We fight and win ... People had better not forget that, because it's a record no-one else has." This picture of Admiral Sir Michael Boyce by CPO(PHOT) Stuart Antrobus won an award in the portrait section of the Royal Navy Photographic Branch's 1998 Peregrine Trophy Competition.

a recruiter. I hope all your readers realise that, too!"

"Meanwhile I have just authorised additional money to go into recruiting."

"Pay is an all-important feature in recruiting – and in retention. And Pay 2000 is a necessary way forward for the Armed Forces of the 21st century. It's going to take

enhance our fighting effectiveness. But somewhere or other there is a line in the sand – and if we cross it, going too 'joint' can undermine that ethos."

"I am absolutely convinced that the reason why the British Armed Forces fight and win – which we do, and people had better not forget that, because it's a record no-one else has – is fundamentally down to that ethos. It's what the Army would call the Regimental spirit – and that's a perfectly adequate expression of the Navy's spirit as well."

"It's just a gut feeling for me. It's impossible to define precisely where that line lies. But it's there. And we've seen some places – not in this country – where it has been crossed, possibly to the detriment of fighting capability."

"So I'm watching for it very closely – and I'm ready to show the red card if I think we're in danger

of crossing it."

"Our Armed Forces are probably just about the one institution left which is held in universal respect in this country – and I guess that's why we sometimes attract a few unpleasant headlines, as when the odd bad behaviour incident comes to the surface."

"Not because the incidents themselves are particularly unusual. Taken across society as a whole they are often quite mundane."

"It's because we are so highly respected that any deviation which suggests our standards might be becoming slightly eroded tends to make the headline writers go overboard."

"So I'm all the more determined that we should uphold these standards the country expects of us, along with our fighting capability. Maybe that's the real challenge for the future – if so, it has got nothing to do with money or politics or changes in strategy. It's something we can address ourselves."

□ Admiral Sir Michael Boyce joined the Royal Navy in 1961 and qualified as a Submariner in 1965, later commanding HM submarines *Oberon*, *Opossum* and *Superb*. Promoted Captain in 1982, he commanded HMS *Brilliant* before being appointed Captain Submarine Sea Training. Various MOD appointments followed before a period serving as Senior Naval Officer Middle East in the rank of Commodore. He was Director of Naval Staff Duties from 1989-91.

As a Rear Admiral he was Flag Officer Sea Training and Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, the latter post including the NATO appointment of Commander Anti-Submarine Warfare Striking Force. Promoted Vice Admiral in February 1994, he was knighted in the 1995 New Year Honours List.

Later that year he was promoted Admiral and became simultaneously Second Sea Lord and C-in-C Naval Home Command. A slightly unusual move as Commander-in-Chief Fleet followed in 1997 and he then succeeded Admiral Sir Jock Slater as First Sea Lord in October 1998.

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NEWSVIEW

Clustering Round Cousin Hugh



● Spin doctors par excellence – on the hot line to the MOD are Bertie Wooster (Ian Carmichael) and Jeeves (Dennis Price). From the classic BBC TV series *The World of Wooster*. Picture: Nicholas Acran

'I say, Jeeves – cousin Hugh has just landed this super job as Director of Public Relations for the jolly old Senior Service!'

'Indeed, sir?'

'Indeed so, Jeeves. Pretty good, what? I fear it may have gone to his head a bit, though. Until quite recently he was driving a destroyer or something. I blame all that salt sea air.'

'I have always found my annual shrimping holiday at Frinton to be most beneficial, sir.'

'Mmm. Well, be that as it may, Jeeves, I think we have a major problem here. Shove across another cup of the hot and refreshing, there's a good fellow. I feel the need to restore the tissues before we get to grips with this one.'

'Perhaps you would explain the situation sir? And then, if I may be of any assistance?'

'Sorry, Jeeves. Haven't given you any data to work on yet, have I? So – what do you think of this tie?'

'A trifle sudden, sir.'

'I have to agree, Jeeves! We don't normally see eye to eye on these matters, but for once we are entirely as one ... You know I've been dashing off the odd piece for *Navy News* lately, building on my success with Aunt Dahlia's *Milady's Boudoir*? 'What the Well Dressed Young Naval Officer is Wearing' – that sort of thing?'

'I have followed your journalistic career with close interest, sir.'

'Really, Jeeves? Well you see, Hugh dropped in at the office the other day while the Editor was wielding the blue pencil over my latest MS, and he spotted the exhibit in question on show in the display case. "This sort of neckgear is all the rage in town just now, Bertie!" he cried. "Absolutely *sine, sine* – 'What's the line, Jeeves?'

'*Sine qua non*, sir. "Without which not" Meaning an indispensable condition or qualification.'

'That's the chap! Anyway, acting on an impulse I now deeply regret, I lugged it out and handed it over.'

'Do you mean he actually intends to wear the item in public, sir?'

'I'm afraid so, Jeeves. You see the difficulty?'

'I do indeed, sir. Most disturbing. It would undoubtedly convey an impression of undue frivolity, hardly in keeping with the best interests of the Royal Navy.'

'Exactly, Jeeves! You grasp the essentials. Don't want to see dear old Hugh making a floater right at the outset, do we? Nasty posh we're in. Blowed if I know how to deal with it ...'

'I believe I may have a solution to the problem, sir.'

'So soon? You astound me, Jeeves! This must be a unique feature in the Wooster archives! I thought we'd be in the market for at least a couple of dozen more pages before we reached the *dénouement*! Been eating plenty of fish, I suppose?'

'Not more than usually, sir. It merely occurs to me that a cousin of mine has lately been engaged in service with Mr Hugh's father, who I gather is a devoted reader of *Navy News*. I dare say he may be prevailed upon to have a quiet word ...'



A selection of Navy News ties is available to readers. The one on the left is the item under discussion. Much more appropriate, in our view, is the standard club design on the right. But what do we know? See advertisement on page 14.

Yet another frivolous Newsview, you might say? Sorry, and all that. But these things matter. Ties matter. So does Saddam Hussein, we suppose. It's a question of priorities. – Ed.



£600,000 in grants to fuel the feelgood factor

GRANTS totalling over £600,000 have been made to RN ships and establishments from the Sailors Fund and the Fleet Amenities Fund, supported by the RN Sports Lottery.

At their half-yearly meeting the Grants Committee voted money to support a range of amenities, expeditions, fitness equipment and projects to help enhance the quality of life for serving personnel.

Because six bids involved sums of over £30,000, they needed the approval of the Trustees, which has now been given. They were for:

□ A replacement yacht for the Naval Air Command's *Sea Harrier* – £46,797.

□ New physical and recreational training equipment at Bickleigh Barracks for 42 Cdo RM – £30,646.

□ Cardiovascular equipment for HMS Heron's new gymnasium – £56,886.

□ A new and innovative motor glider for the RN Gliding Association to be based at HMS Seahawk – £70,609.

□ Refurbishment of the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess at HMS Drake – £77,035.

□ Refurbishment of the Naval Base Commander

Bumper payout from RN charities – with much more to come

Portsmouth's Ratings Mess in Semaphore Tower – £35,454.

A number of bids for still bigger projects are currently under consideration for cash grants to be made in March.

Meanwhile, thanks to a generous donation from the RN Sports Lottery and the HMS Raleigh Central Fund a new Fitness Profile Suite has opened at the Navy's new entry training establishment at Torpoint – just in time for the introduction of the compulsory Fitness Test in April.

It will be used for weight loss programmes, tailored fitness training schedules and rehabilitation exercises for injured sportsmen and women.



● Commodore Roger Lockwood, the Commanding Officer HMS Raleigh (right) opens the Fitness suite as WOM2 Tracy Snowden is put through an assessment by the Training Commander, Cdr Richard Brooksbank.

PAY 2000: WHAT IT WILL MEAN FOR YOU

■ From front page (WTS) which is the weighted average of different jobs undertaken by those of the same rank and trade. Each trade will have a separate score for each separate rank to give a comparison between trades and branches. That will give a basis for comparison between Service and civilian life.

The score of each employment or trade will be re-assessed if there are significant changes, such as the amount of time spent at sea and ashore.

For ratings and Royal Marines other ranks the difference between the highest and lowest score at each rank will be so wide that two pay ranges within each rank will be needed.

Everyone will be allocated to one of the ranges depending on their branch or trade, and, broadly, the upper ranges will be for technical branches and the lower for non-technical.

There is expected to be some overlap in ranges at senior rate level.

Job evaluation of trades will be undertaken by an independent panel of judges at Captain RN rank equivalent from each Service. The Naval judge will be responsible to the Second Sea Lord, not Ministry of Defence central staff, and there are plans to review the evaluations every five years, as now.

Which trade is in which range will emerge later this year when more job evaluations have been completed, based on the evidence submitted through questionnaires and interviews.

All ranges from AB or marine to commodore/brigadier will have a series of increments for annual seniority-based pay rises as well as the cost of living increase based on the AFPRB recommendations on April 1 each year.

For ABs and leading hands – and marines and corporals – there will be some opportunities to accelerate progress up the incremental scale with attainment of certain qualifications.

Exact details on progression and incentives are still being worked out. However, it is known that there will be nine increments at AB/Mnc and at CPO, CCPO, C/Sgt and WO2 ranks, with seven increments for leading hands, corporals, POs, sergeants, WOs and WO1s.

The incremental structure will be the same for upper and lower ranges, the only difference between the two being rates of pay.

Each Admiral rank will have two or three pay ranges depending on the job held, while for the start of the new system at least, other officers will have only one pay range per rank. It has been more difficult to construct separate ranges for officers below flag rank due to insufficient job evaluation so far – and because officers from different

branches and seniorities undertake the same or similar appointments. However, ranges for officers may be reviewed in later years.

There will be ten increments at sub-lieutenant level; seven for lieutenants RN and captains RM; nine for lieutenant commanders, commanders, captains RN and their RM equivalents; and five for commodores and brigadiers.

Pensions will continue to be tied to rank and length of service. The pensions review going on at present will examine whether there should be new arrangements in line with Pay 2000, but that work will not be finished before the new deal is introduced. In any event, there will be reserved rights for those serving when any change comes in.

An additional £74 million will be added to the pay bill over two years to make sure that nobody is disadvantaged in the scheme's transitional phase.

It is estimated that the total pay bill after that will be about the same as now, apart from cost-of-living rises. That does mean that those earning more on higher ranges must be balanced out by those entering on the lower ranges, and the on-promotion pay rates will in many cases be lower than at present to allow for subsequent increments.

However, everyone is guaranteed a rise of at least two per cent on promotion.

Rates of pay will continue to be

set by the AFPRB and will as now be calculated on the basis of broad comparability – but with a more scientific approach using job evaluation.

On the day Pay 2000 takes effect personnel will be placed on the closest incremental level and on the appropriate pay range at or above their rate of pay immediately before introduction of the new system.

People not eligible to be at the transitional pay-range level – based on seniority or qualifications within rank – will stand still on the assimilation point until qualified to progress, although they will continue to receive annual cost-of-living rises as now.

Those who are eligible will progress to the next incremental level on the anniversary of their seniority in rank in addition to the annual cost-of-living rise.

The new system is seen as better reflecting the skills and experience of Service people, and enabling them to reap greater rewards as they develop through the incremental structure. It is expected to help motivate people at all levels when they might otherwise have stagnated when promotion or advancement turns out to be slower than they hoped for.

More information on the new pay system will be given out in leaflets, roadshows and other ways during this year.

Normandy landing craft crew memorial fund is launched

THE DUKE of Edinburgh has thrown his support behind a plan to erect a memorial to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel who manned landing craft during the Normandy campaign.

Prince Philip has become patron of a fund to erect a memorial at Ouistreham on the left flank of the 1944 landing area in the British and Canadian sector. It also has the support of the LST and Landing Craft Association and the Normandy Veterans Association.

The proposed memorial will stand on land provided near the mouth of the Canal de Caen by Caen Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It will be of dark granite with a keystone anchor – of the sort used in landing craft – set in a light granite stone.

It is proposed that the inscription will read:

In memory of the British Royal Navy and Royal Marines crews – especially those who were wounded or gave their lives – of more than 4,000 landing craft, ships and barges which transported the Allied soldiers and their equipment to France during the Normandy campaign from D-Day 6 June 1944 until the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8 May 1945.

President of the LST and Landing Craft Association, Lt Cdr Jim Brend RN (retd), told Navy News that it was hoped to have the memorial unveiled on the anniversary of D-Day – either this year or next.

Total cost of installation and maintenance would be £18,500.

Donations to the fund should be sent to Mr M. A. Hillebrandt, 2 Stoneyford Park, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6TB. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Normandy RN/RM Memorial.

Spearhead troops in big drive



Joint Anglo-Dutch patrol on Exercise Logex 98 – Mnes Neil Blewett and Mike Cox of 40 Cdo with a Dutch marine (left).

NEW SPEARHEAD unit of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force – 40 Commando – was among the forces deployed for an Anglo-Dutch logistics exercise which tested the Royal Marines efficiency in setting up a combat supply chain.

The ten-day Exercise Logex 98 was held in northern Holland in conjunction with 1st Battalion the Royal Netherlands Marines.

With HQ 3 Cdo Brigade RM, and other Commando elements, the British and Dutch combined as the UK Netherlands Landing Force – appropriately in the 50th anniversary year of the UKNLF.

The exercise started with a big drive ashore – a beach landing where most of the heavy logistical machinery and the large number of vehicles disembarked.

Half the RM HQ and Signal Squadron – over 200 Marines – took part in the exercise as did the Commando Logistic Regiment which practised its war role, working around the clock to establish the resupply chain to all the forces on the ground.

Also taking part in the highly successful exercise were 29 Cdo Royal Artillery, 59 Sqn Royal Engineers, 20 Cdo Battery (Air Defence) and HQ Cdo Aviation.

40 Cdo took over the JRDF Spearhead role on December 1, and in April are due to embark in the commando carrier HMS Ocean for a seven-week exercise with the US Marines on the east coast of America.



Disembarkation from the ferry King of Scandinavia at Eelshaven in Holland.

and 45 Commando in jungle fury

EXERCISE Caribbean Fury 98 turned out to be a sadly appropriate title for a month-long exercise by 45 Cdo Group in the jungles of Belize.

As reported in the December edition of Navy News, the Royal Marines were diverted from their planned activities when they were needed for disaster relief work in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.

Their exercise was, nevertheless, successful. Deploying to Belize from their base at Arbroath, Scotland, they started with a ten-kilometre insertion march in fighting order to company camps along the Macal River – the haunt of crocodiles, pumas, snakes, tarantulas and monster insects.

Each of the companies then began a four-week jungle warfare training package conducted by 40 Cdo's own instructors.

Over the next three weeks more and more of the tactical aspects of jungle warfare were applied, culminating with a live attack on an 'enemy' camp, and an assault river crossing. By that time three weeks of daily rain had turned fordable rivers into raging torrents as deep as 15ft.

As the warnings went out in the path of Hurricane Mitch, 45 Cdo were still in their jungle camps – and the rising rivers and deteriorating state of the track meant the unit had to get out fast.

The Royal Marines drivers worked for over 30 hours to extract the 500 men of 45 Cdo to Holdfast and Airport Camps where they prepared for the hurricane relief operation.

On completion of that, 45 Cdo Group stood down for a while before embarking in HMS Ocean for a raiding exercise with Dutch Marines on Curacao.



One more river to cross – a member of 45 Cdo on the ropes during Exercise Caribbean Fury.



Here come the first two-year sailors

THESE eight recruits passing out from their entry course at HMS Raleigh represent a new breed of sailor – the first to begin a two-year sea-going engagement.

The new arrangement – SES, standing for Short Engagement (Seaman) – was announced in May by the then Armed Forces Minister, Dr John Reid. The engagement is open to those aged 17-32, successful candidates being employed on whole-ship activities such as quartermaster duties, boats' crew, replenishment at sea, guns' crews, first-aid, firefight-

ing and damage control.

They will have an opportunity to apply for a transfer by mutual agreement to a regular engagement at any time during their SES.

People on the scheme will gain skills which could be used in civilian life through Marine Safety Agency certificates. All relevant experience will also count towards NVQ units on any transfer to open engagement.

The first eight SES recruits are (l-r) Andrew Hallimond, Wayne Millet, Hayley Leon, Rebecca Rose, Gavin Brett, Simon Hodgson, Robert Wood and Simon Gibbs.

Ex-prisoners of Japanese to fight on

BRITISH Far East prisoners of war are to continue the fight to win compensation from Japan despite a ruling by a Tokyo court which rejected their claims.

The three Japanese judges ruled against the argument that international treaties allowed individual victims to claim compensation. Campaigners from the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association are seeking a payment of £13,500 for each of 10,000 camp survivors.

Chairman of the Association, Arthur Titherington, said he was planning to seek help from Prime Minister Tony Blair to put pressure on the Japanese to relent.

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SUBMARINE'S RUN AS



Vanguard visit marks c

Pictures by Capt Rob MacDonald RM



HMS VANGUARD has emerged as the first Trident submarine to benefit from a new policy on port visits.

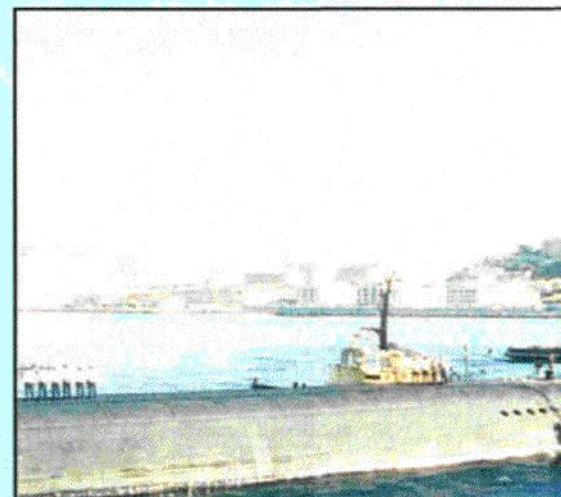
The 16,000-tonne ballistic missile boat became the first ever operational Trident to enjoy a port visit when she surfaced for a run ashore at Gibraltar in December.

Until now, Britain's latest nuclear deterrent submarines have operated a secret patrolling regime and they have only ever been seen at their home port of Faslane or at missile firing trials in the USA.

But the Strategic Defence Review announcement that SSBNs would operate at a 'day-to-day' alert state and adopt a wider role has cleared the way for occasional trips ashore.

During Vanguard's visit to Gibraltar, Britain's deterrent was being maintained by another patrolling submarine and the boat was not armed with ballistic missiles, but her 500-ft profile alongside the Rock made an awesome spectacle for the people of Gibraltar.

While many of the crew took the opportunity to fly out wives and girlfriends to share the traditional sights and sounds that make Gibraltar such a pop-



SHORE IN GIBRALTAR!



change in Trident policy

ular stop-over with the Royal Navy, Vanguard opened her hatches to offer a guided-tour like no other.

Visitors to the submarine included the Commodore Taylor, Commander of British Forces, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, civic dignitaries and many more members of the public.

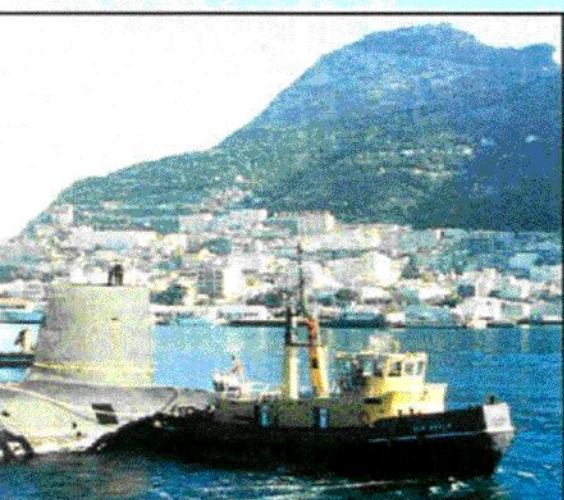
The Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Richard Luce, was another visitor and he in turn invited representatives from each mess on board to his official residence for high tea and a rewarding tour which included the convent and adjoining chapel.

Vanguard's CO, Cdr Paul Abraham, said: "This is the first time the crew of an operational Trident submarine have been able to enjoy a port visit anywhere.

"We received a tremendous Gibraltarian welcome and this only added to the enjoyment on board.

"We are delighted that so many local people took advantage of the official and unofficial visits that we hosted on board."

□ During the visit, CPO Nicholson collected £700 sponsorship from the crew for running in the Gibraltar Rock Race. He donated the money to the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust to help fund eight youngsters on a trip to Lourdes, France.



BE CAVALIER...



**DRINK
DESTROYER**
THE HMS CAVALIER CAMPAIGN BEER

NAVY NEWS SUPPORTS HMS CAVALIER

A SPECIAL beer is going on sale to raise funds for Britain's last surviving World War II destroyer.

Around 10p from each pint sold will go towards the HMS Cavalier Consortium's target of £350,000. The Flagship Brewery, producers of 'Destroyer' (not a reference to its potency, a respectable but hardly life-threatening 4% ABV) are also donating a further £3 per nine-gallon firkin. They were last month said to be working flat-out to meet the demand.

During World War II 153 RN destroyers were sunk with a loss of almost 30,000 lives. HMS Cavalier is the only one left. She saw service in 1945, escorting Arctic Convoy RA64, taking part in three major operations off Norway. Before the war ended in Europe she escorted the liners Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, carrying troops at speed across the Atlantic. She then joined the Pacific Fleet.

Once heralded as "the fastest ship in the Fleet", she was in a sad state of decline in a dry-dock on Tyneside until her fate was brought to the nation's attention in 1996, when she was almost sold to a Malaysian theme park company.

The HMS Cavalier (Chatham) Consortium has already secured £1.5 million from the National

Heritage Memorial Trust but still needs £350,000 to preserve her and move her to the Historic Dockyard, Chatham.

She will then become a memorial to all those men lost aboard destroyers and form the centre-piece of a new exhibit at the Battle Ships site, where she will be berthed alongside the submarine HMS Ocelot and the Victorian sloop HMS Gannet.

Flagship Brewery is also based at the Historic Dockyard. As an incentive, the landlord selling the most 'Destroyer' by April 30, 1999 will receive tickets for the prestigious VIP Navy Days Ball on May 28.

All publicans selling more than 20 firkins will be invited to attend the ceremony for HMS Cavalier's arrival in the spring. Contact The Flagship Brewery on 01634 832828.

● Launching 'Destroyer', the HMS Cavalier Campaign Beer at the King George V, Chatham were (left to right) Francis Marsh, secretary of The Friends of HMS Cavalier Trust; Admiral Sir Nicholas Hunt, Chairman of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust; Rear Admiral John Hervey and Sid Anning, president and chairman of the HMS Cavalier Association.



NAVY NEWS SUPPORTS MTB 102

Speedboat story – as told by friends

HMS CAVALIER may have been the fastest ship in the Fleet – but MTB 102 was the fastest boat. And if she were taken back into service with her original performance, she still would be today.

She was the first ever modern Motor Torpedo Boat, the prototype of all the MTBs which served in World War II, launched at Vosper's Camber Yard in Old Portsmouth in 1937.

Such was the success of this "Private Venture Boat" – during trials she achieved 41 knots while carrying two

deck torpedo tubes – that she was bought by the Admiralty later that year.

For the last few days of the

Dunkirk rescue, she was the flagship of Admiral Wake-Walker, taking over the vital

role after the destroyer HMS

Keith was bombed.

Later she carried Winston Churchill and General Eisenhower as they reviewed the D-Day fleet which would help retake Europe from the Nazis.

Much later still she became a film star, featuring in *The Eagle Has Landed* with Michael Caine.

Today, far from being mothballed in a museum somewhere, MTB 102 is still afloat and in good order, regularly appearing in national and international events – including the five-yearly reunion voyage of the Little Ships to Dunkirk.

She now has a free mooring in Lowestoft Yacht Harbour – and with her dedicated team of crew members, generous sponsors and the support of the Friends of MTB 102, the MTB 102 Trust (which took her over in 1996) hopes that her future will be secure.

Her story is told by Tom Jea in MTB 102 – Vosper's Masterpiece, available from The Friends of MTB 102, Hilltop, Castle Street, Wroxham, Norfolk NR12 8AB at £4 inc pp.



● MTB 102 at Vosper Thornycroft's Woolston yard for her 60th birthday in May 1997

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At Your Leisure



The Old Yacht

HMV Victoria and Albert in Portsmouth Harbour for the 1935 Silver Jubilee Fleet Review

— From *Portsmouth Between the Wars* by Tony Triggs (Halsgrove, £7.95)

The Britannia's predecessor became an accommodation ship in 1939. She was broken up at Faslane in 1954.



Ocean No.5 — value for money

NOT THE biggest of aircraft carriers, nor one of the best known, even so the fifth HMS Ocean — the current Ocean's immediate predecessor — packed enough incident into her 12 years of life to make for an interesting story.

It is told — and published — by Joyce Knowlson, secretary of the HMS Ocean Association, in *HMS Ocean 1945-57 — Peacetime Warrior*, detailing such items as:

- Last official flight from a carrier deck by a Fairey Swordfish.
- First landing of a pure jet aircraft onto an aircraft carrier under way.
- The Corfu Incident of 1946 and the end to British rule in Palestine, 1948.
- The Korean War, 1951-53.
- Suez, 1956.

Writes Rear Admiral Euan Maclean in the foreword: "Among the ships in which I served, HMS Ocean was very special. She was hard worked — operations never far from and often beyond the limits, every ounce of effort demanded of man and machine. She broke records; the country has not had better value for money."

Available from Mrs J. Knowlson, 15 East Avenue, Burnage Garden Village, Manchester M19 2NR at £12 plus £2 pp (£4 overseas).

Zorro teams up with Zeta Jones for a comic turn

ZORRO, that black-garbed scourge of tyranny, that virtuoso with a blade of Toledo steel, famed wooer of dark-eyed señoritas etc, etc. Well, in short, he's back — in *The Mask of Zorro*, a full-blooded reworking of the old yarn.

This version jettisons much of the original scenario (whereby, it will be recalled, our hero pretended to be a foppish aristocrat) in favour of a generational saga somewhat reminiscent of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

The film's first couple of reels are basically a storing up of injustices — the murdered wife, the murdered brother, the abducted baby — for which our joint heroes Old Zorro (Anthony Hopkins) and New Zorro (Antonio Banderas) will spend the rest of the picture settling accounts.

It's all like some long ago dream of a children's comic: the hideout behind the waterfall, the secret goldmine, the playful duelling in the stables with Don Diego's daughter, the keg of gunpowder, the sputtering fuse, death in the afternoon.

But the clash of swords in enhanced Dolby stereo and the villain's anachronistic "Bag it!" after decapitating a foe remind us that this is indeed a contemporary version. Certainly the old Disney TV series would have stopped well short of a scene in which some captured militia are stripped naked and tied to a giant cactus — facing inward. Caramba! That's got to hurt. Hopkins dominates the proceedings effortlessly (though his stunt double might query that "effortlessly") while Catherine Zeta Jones now looks

a cert for a big Hollywood career.

The only trouble with *The Mask of Zorro* is the mask itself, that little black eye-piece also sported by Dick Turpin and The Lone Ranger, and as a disguise about as effective as a new pair of socks.

The paranoid impulse behind the recent Truman Show returns full force in *Enemy of the State*. Did you know that in the USA all phone calls are monitored by the FBI, with a computer activating a recording mechanism upon the uttering of certain key words ('bomb', 'Allah' etc)? That's what it says here, anyway.

Our hero, caught in the way of governmental chicanery, has his house bugged fore and aft for sound and vision, while his shoelaces contain a tracking device, his fountain pen's a mike, and 60 miles above him a satellite gently rotates to monitor a trip uptown.

You can imagine some sociologist circa 2075: "People's anxiety about the new technology is clear to see in such popular movies as ..." Poor old Will Smith faces shot and shell from every direction, although perhaps his worst moment comes when he discovers the villains have cancelled his credit cards.

And a back-up cast of old pros — Gene Hackman, Jon Voight, Jason Robards — lends it all a touch of class.

ScreenScene — by Bob Baker

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The GANG PLANK Club

A HOY there me hearties! I hope you all enjoyed your holiday fun and weren't too sick on all them there sweets and goodies. By the time you read these 'ere words, I'll be fair bound for that there place they call London for a grand gatherin' of boats of all kinds. I hope some of ye can join me. You'll find me at the London Boat Show, with the Royal Navy!!

I hear some of you landlubbers will be off to them there shows they call pantomimes. If you see me old mate Capt'n Hook then give him a boo from me.

Don't forget now we are heading into the New Year to keep all those promises you call resolutions. I've made up me mind to stop pinching other people's treasure!

Have you made a New Year's resolution?

Tamagotchi winners

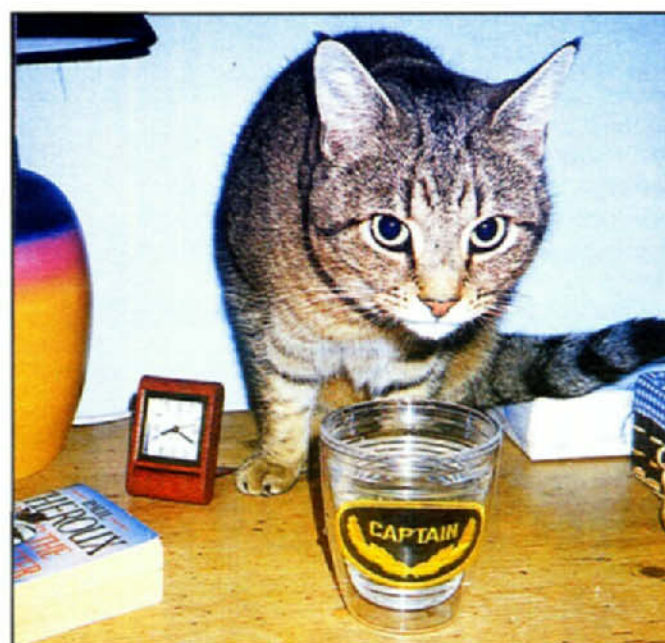
THE WINNERS of our Tamagotchi competition are:

Richard Connelly, Javade Higman, Victoria Jones, Emily Jones, Francesca Ingram, Kim Hartland, Kaylea Dunn, Alex Wilkins, Keith Oxborough, Alex Merrett, Kyly Bell and Emma Roberts. Well done to you all!

DID YOU KNOW that people all over the country make promises to do things or give things up on January 1?

These are called New Year's resolutions. Have you made any resolutions? If not, why not make some now? We asked lots of children about their resolutions and here's some of the most popular:

1. I will not eat so many sweets.
2. I will help around the house more.
3. I will stop playing my Game Boy all the time.
4. I will learn two more tricks on my yo-yo.
5. I must only roller blade where I am supposed to.
6. I will try not to argue with my best friend.
7. I must put my litter in the bin.
8. I will take good care of my Furby.
9. I will not watch any television until I've finished my homework.



Is your pet as cool as this cat?

WHAT DO you think of this cool cat then? Isn't he just adorable? If you have a star pet then we want to hear about it.

Check out the Gang Plank Club in February's edition of *Navy News* for the start of Pets Corner. We want you to send us photos and stories about your pets.

We will be giving away prizes for the best ones.

Perhaps you have a Vietnamese pot-bellied pig who likes to chew Grandad's best slippers or a hamster who likes to run amok in the vegetable basket.

You might even have a pet who has saved someone's life or you might simply want to tell us that you think your pet is the cutest and cuddliest pet in the whole world!



January birthdays

Daniel Shaw, Emma Wrigley, Harry McKnight, Thomas Straw, Samantha West, Jenna Wood, Jason Clark, Gary Reid, Erin Duffy, Ryan Whittaker, Nathan Lavin, Fern Brooks, Fabian Healey, Darren Sherry, Raymond David Moore, Gary Powell, Lily Livermore, Stephen Aspin, Jacob Bushell, Brent Norton, Laura Slater, Adam Spivey, Holly Bellamy, Daniel Marsh, Rebecca Carpenter, Jennifer Morris, Michael Dunk, Daniel Stebbings, Rhodri Oliver, Matthew Phillips, Barry Horler, Sami Hussain, Lisa Burford, Holly Hancock, James Williams, Alex Parrott, Natasha Lewis, Thomas Michael, Alex Quesada, Gareth Jones, Jacki Wilson, Darren Doyle, Charlene Elliot, Callum Osborne, Rachael Paul, Slan Morris, Jamie Lee Nixon, Rebekah Colman, Lee Garland, Sharon Packer, Melody Joy Adams, Gareth Davies, Matthew Gillmore, Andrea Goltz, Andrew Steele, Jeni Noble, Steven Whitworth, Kim Burrell, Karleigh Cogdale, Martyn English, Karl Louise Dennis, Jack Absalom, Rachael Worsley.

POETRY COMPETITION

CAPTAIN PLANK HAS PRIZES TO GIVE AWAY FOR THE BEST POEM TO BE SENT TO HIM

Make up a Special Poem and send it to 'CAPTAIN PLANK' at

The Gang Plank Club, HMS Nelson, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HH

Don't forget to include your name, age and address

AND YOU COULD WIN ONE OF HIS SPECIAL PRIZES!

The Best Two Poems will be printed on the Gang Plank Pages

Closing date for entries 12th February 1999

CHAT PAD

OKAY, be honest. How many mince pie parcels did you manage to eat? I bet you never want to see another one again!

Well, 1999 is here and it's going to be such an exciting year, counting down the days to the new millennium. If you or your school are planning something special then we want to hear about it.

Emma Roberts wrote to thank us for her Pringles lunch pack and Matthew Vuga and Richard Connelly sent us some terrific jokes. But that's quite enough chat, just read on to find out how you can help reduce that rubbish, and on the next page, how people sent messages before they had telephones.

Last but not least we would like to wish you all a very happy New Year. Don't forget to renew your Club membership, otherwise you'll miss out on all those great prizes!

Top green tip

DO YOU want to know how you can help the environment this Christmas? Just think about all the extra fizzy drinks cans from all those parties, all that wrapping paper from those lovely presents and all those Christmas cards. All of it can be recycled and here's how.

□ Fizzy drinks cans: collect them up and take them to a can bank. There's bound to be one at your local supermarket.

□ Christmas cards: once Christmas is over you can gather up all your and your family's old cards and put them in the special collection bins at Boots the Chemists or at the Post Office.

□ Christmas trees: take these along to your nearest recycling centre where they can be shredded into bark chippings and used by the local county councils as a dressing for gardens etc.

□ Wrapping paper: some areas have introduced recycling collection schemes and they will be happy to collect wrapping paper along with your old comics and magazines. If not, there are usually paper banks at the big supermarkets.



More jolly jokes!

* Why do giraffe's have long necks?

* Because their feet smell!

* What's the opposite of a didgeridoo?

* A digeri don't!

* What game do spacemen play?

* Moon-opoly!

* What is small and brown and sneaks around the kitchen?

* A mince spy!

* What's tall, bent and tasty?

* The leaning tower of pizza!

A big thank you to Jade Fraser, Graham Lucas and Matthew Vuga for these jolly jokes.

LET'S LEARN ABOUT:

Semaphore

HOW do you keep in touch with your friends? You probably reach for the telephone or even send them an e-mail, but how did people communicate hundreds of years ago?

The Picts used signal beacons to warn of the Roman invasion of Britain; American Indians talked to each other by smoke signals and jungle tribes used drums. But only very simple messages could be sent.

The first person to invent a system which could send proper messages was Claude Chappel, a French doctor. This was in 1791. He called his system "semaphore" and information was sent as a code which could be seen.

In the early 19th century Rear Admiral Popham and General Pasley developed their own "semaphore" systems. Popham designed a tall upright pole carrying two arms attached by pivots. Each arm could be moved into many different positions which stood for a letter of the alphabet or a number. There were 48 different signs.

The system was eventually used by the Admiralty to send important messages. The semaphore was operated by someone who moved the arms which were on winches, while someone at the next semaphore station would watch through a telescope and pass the message on.

The Admiralty built all the semaphore relay stations on the tops of hills within sight of each other and up to 10 kilometres apart. There were 25 of them along the Admiralty(London) to Portsmouth Semaphore Line and they could send a message all that way in between seven to 15 minutes. Except on foggy days ...

More next time about how the stations worked. We'll also show you how to signal your own messages!

Membership Application Form

Please enrol me as a member of The Gang Plank Club. I enclose a PO/cheque (payable to Navy News) for £3.25.

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D.O.B. Tel No.

Do you have any Brothers ☐ Sisters ☐ Ages ☐

Special Interests: Sport ☐ Music ☐ Film/TV ☐

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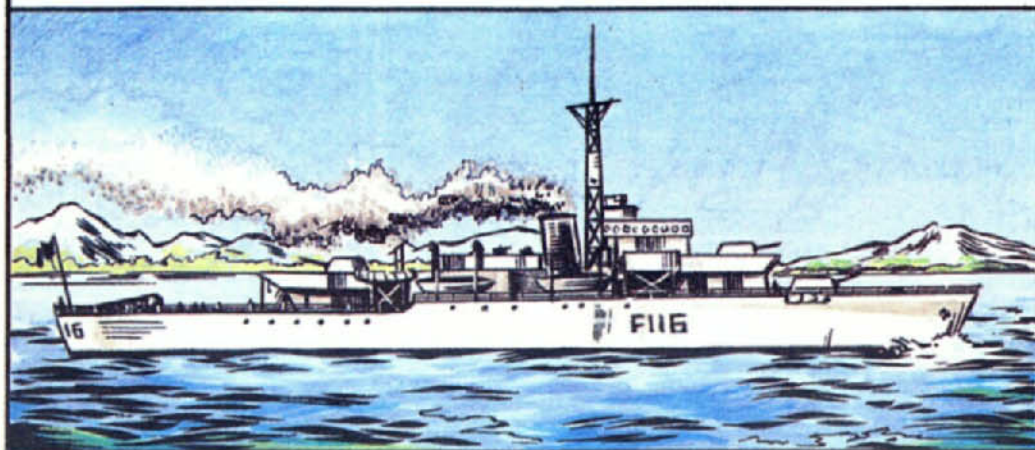
This feature is sponsored by

LOCKHEED MARTIN

FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS YEAR THE ROYAL NAVY WAS CENTRE STAGE IN A DRAMA THAT CAPTURED THE IMAGINATION OF THE BRITISH PUBLIC - AND WAS LATER MADE INTO A CELEBRATED FEATURE FILM. LEAD ROLE IN THE ACTUAL EVENT WAS TAKEN BY THE FRIGATE HMS AMETHYST. AND SHE WAS KEPT FROM THE SCRAPYARD JUST LONG ENOUGH TO STAR IN THE MOVIE, TOO, AND SO PRESERVE HER IMMORTALITY IN WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS:

The Yangtse Incident

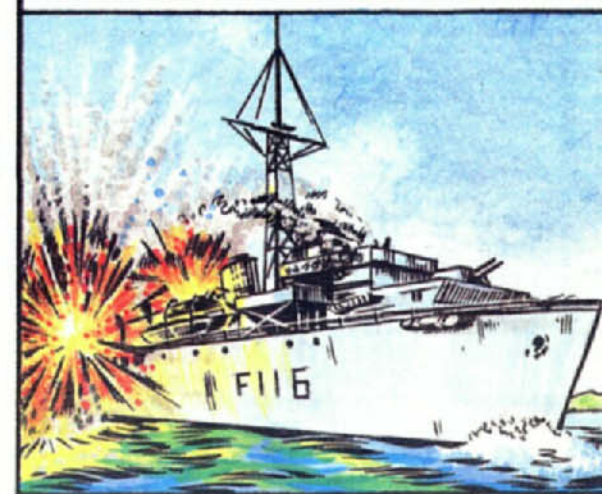
APRIL 20, 1949. THE CIVIL WAR IN CHINA BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND NATIONALIST FORCES IS AT ITS HEIGHT. THE FRIGATE HMS AMETHYST STEAMS UP THE YANGTSE RIVER TO RELIEVE THE GUARDSHIP HMS CONSORT AT NANKING, PREPARED TO EVACUATE BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS.



0832 HRS. OPPOSITE LOW ISLAND. AMETHYST COMES UNDER FIRE FROM THE COMMUNIST HELD NORTH SHORE.



0915 HRS. AMETHYST IS ATTACKED AGAIN BY BATTERIES AROUND XOU AN REACH AND ROSE ISLAND - AND TAKES THREE DIRECT HITS.



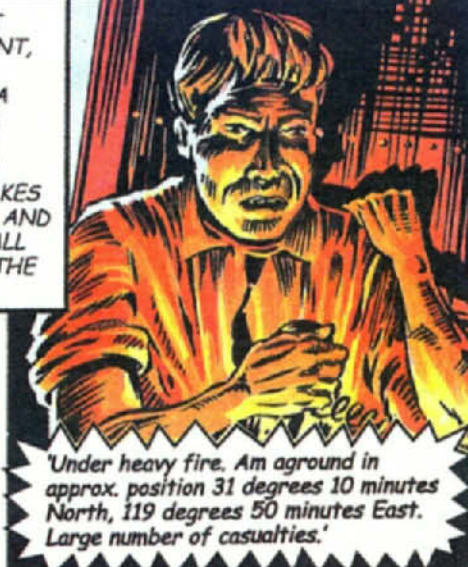
"OPEN FIRE!" - BUT IN THE SAME INSTANT TWO SHELLS HIT THE BRIDGE. THE CO, LT CDR B.M. SKINNER LIES MORTALLY WOUNDED.



IN THE CONFUSION THE SHIP RUNS AGROUND OFF ROSE ISLAND.



THE FIRST LIEUTENANT, LT G.L. WESTON, A WOUNDED SURVIVOR FROM THE BRIDGE TAKES COMMAND AND SIGNALS ALL SHIPS IN THE AREA:



'Under heavy fire. Am aground in approx. position 31 degrees 10 minutes North, 119 degrees 50 minutes East. Large number of casualties.'



INVEST IN YOUR CHILD



OPEN DAY

Saturday 30th January 9.30am-12 noon
Boarding Bursary Assessment Day
23rd February

The Duke of Kent School is an IAPS co-educational school for 180 children aged 4-13. Set in beautiful grounds and offering superb facilities, we provide a caring and happy environment for each of our pupils, with an emphasis on personal tuition and individual development.

Substantial bursaries are available to Service families.

If you would like to find out more about us, come along to our Open Day on January 30th when the Headmaster, staff and children will be happy to answer your questions and show you around.

DUKE OF KENT SCHOOL

Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7NS
Tel: Cranleigh (01483) 277313 Fax: (01483) 273862.



Kelly has an eye for quality ...

KELLY College – probably the best small school of its type in the country and one of the leading schools in the South West – provides a high quality, well-balanced education.

It enjoys an established reputation for good academic results and for its cultural and sporting achievements. Thus 1998 saw well over 95 per cent

of its Sixth Form leavers able to proceed to university or tertiary education. GCSE and A level results equalled those of previous years – A level results

being the best ever with a pass rate of over 93 per cent.

The sporting record of the school is very strong. Kelly has a national reputation in swimming, rugby and athletics, while hockey and netball teams have achieved county and regional success. At the same time, there is much cause for pride in music and drama.

One of Kelly's strengths is the range and diversity of its societies – recent successes in public speaking, essay and debating competitions confirm this. And the Lower School activities programme offers something for everybody, from cooking to computing, from self-defence to pottery.

A co-educational secondary school of about 350 pupils aged 11-18 years, Kelly offers all the facilities of a larger school, while retaining the advantages in the individual care and class size of a smaller school. Boarders, weekly boarders and day pupils are all welcomed.

The Junior School is a co-educational nursery and junior school for a further 120 pupils aged 3-11 years. It is a day school, sharing many of the facilities of the main school, but boarders can be accepted into the Lower School House from age nine.

Recent developments include the opening of Lower School House for 9-13 year olds in 1996; flexi-boarding for all day pupils; the launch of the Admiral Kelly Millennium Appeal in 1997; and the opening of a new classroom block at the Junior School in September 1998. With over 470 pupils in the school, Kelly is larger than it has ever been.

Entry to the Senior School is by examination and/or interview at 11+, 13+ and at Sixth Form level. Academic, Music, Art and All-Rounder Scholarships and Exhibitions are offered annually and are available at 11, 13 and 16 years.

Assessment Day for the 1999 11+ and 12+ entry will be held on February 6. Tel 01822 612050 for details. Entry to the Junior School is by interview. Tel 01822 612919.

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Telephone: (01453) 843196 and 521524 Fax: (01453) 842765

Headmaster: R.C.G. Lyne-Pirkis Cerd Ed., MBIM

Kingham Hill School

Kingham OX7 6TH

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10% reduction in fees is available to all HM Forces Personnel.

If you would like to visit or require further details, please telephone or write to: The Headmaster, Mr I Mullins



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LOWER SCHOOL (11+ & 12+) ASSESSMENTS TESTS
SATURDAY, 6TH. FEBRUARY, 1999, commencing at 10.00 a.m.



For further details apply to:

The Headmaster, Kelly College, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0HZ

Tel. 01822 613005 Fax 01822 612050

Registrar: KirwinC@aol.com

Headmaster: KellyHM@compuserve.com

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/kelly_college

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INVEST IN EXCELLENCE



A Navy News Advertising Feature

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At Newlands Pre-Prep School early assessment and recognition helps the youngest pupils to progress. The Preparatory School provides structured teaching programmes, taught in a multi-sensory way and adjusted to the child's individual learning style. In the senior school, Newlands Manor, pupils are taught study skills and examination techniques in order to prepare them for GCSE and A level courses.

This centre of excellence at Newlands provides an educational foundation so that all its pupils can become independent learners and achieve their true potential. For further details, call 01323 892334.

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- OFSTED March 1997 says: 'This is an outstanding school.'

For more information please contact the Registrar at Cranbrook School, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JD
Telephone 01580 712554 Fax: 01580 715365
e-mail: registrar@cranbrook.kent.sch.uk
Cranbrook School (GM) exists to promote education in Cranbrook.

THIS FEATURE IS
CONTINUED ON P28

One of Somerset's best kept secrets is Chilton Cantelo School Yeovil, Somerset

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Junior School & Pre-Prep

Saturday 13th February 1999 - Saturday 15th May 1999

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Please send a PROSPECTUS and OPEN DAY details for the Senior School ☐ Junior School ☐ Pre-Prep ☐

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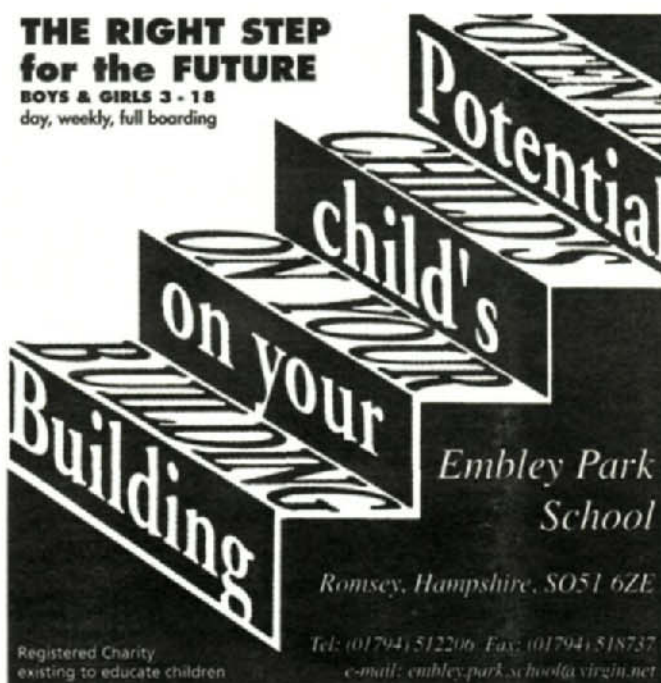
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Fax: 01761 235105
E-mail: registrar@downside.co.uk

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Newlands School, Eastborne Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 4NP
Reg. Charity No 297606



A Navy News Advertising Feature

INVEST IN THE FUTURE

Royal School music aids Mitch victims

MUSIC has always played a key role at The Royal School during the Autumn Term - but last year more than ever.

Tim Lane, the newly arrived Deputy Head, took over management of the large and enthusiastic choir, which then sang at the annual Seafarers Service at St Paul's Cathedral and at Admiral Bayley's Memorial Service in the Royal Naval College Chapel, Greenwich.

They also featured strongly in the end of term Christmas Concert and, of course, at the Carol Service which was this year held in St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere.

These included a number of carols specially arranged by the Royal School's composer in residence, Mr Brian Knowles. As a final note to the term the choir took their carols out onto the streets of Haslemere to sing in aid of the victims of Hurricane Mitch.

As part of an ongoing programme of specialist masterclasses, the girls were enormously enthused by singer Glenn Tweedie from the Royal College of Music who held a Voice Masterclass at the school and took a number of soloists through their paces.

The Junior School, The Grove, also held a Performing Arts Gala. Stars of the future were on stage as individual children from as young as seven performed a wide range of special items including a traditional Spanish dance, violin, piano and harp solos and songs from Titanic and West Side Story.

Nursery and Pre-preparatory Departments delighted their parents with their special musical Christmas productions, one of which told the story of how Silent Night came to be written.



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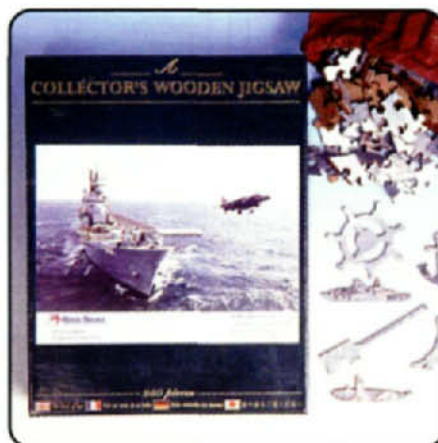


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Please allow 28 days for delivery. NB NOTE NOT ACTUAL SIZE

Royal commissioning for Merlin squadron



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The hangar in which the ceremony was held, in front of 400 guests, was the same one in which he was presented with his own 'wings' after qualifying as a helicopter pilot in 1981.

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"Although it is hard for me to say it as a Lynx man, it will also make a significant contribution to the anti-surface warfare battle and in the future, with the new anti-surface warfare weapon, it will be a world-beater."

"The Strategic Defence Review has given the Royal Navy a key role in the defence, and defence policy and philosophy, of the United Kingdom. You in 700M squadron are at the leading edge



● The Duke at the controls of a 700M Squadron Merlin.

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After the ceremony 700M Squadron was presented with a solid silver model of a Merlin Mark One by Mr Peter Shultz, Managing Director of prime contractor Lockheed Martin ASIC.

And the formalities were completed with a traditional cake-cutting by the youngest member of the squadron, 18-year-old AEM Mike Sholders, and Mrs Pamela Stanley, wife of Cdr Ian Stanley, Commander Training, Cudrose.

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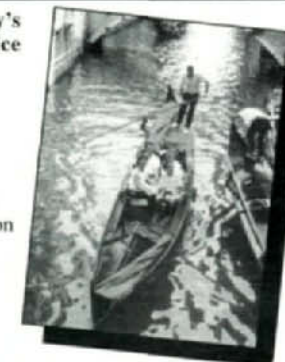
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The Dragonfly (airframe number VX595) is now displayed in pristine condition in the Yeovilton Museum's Korean War section after an extensive restoration programme carried out by the RN and FRA SERCo.

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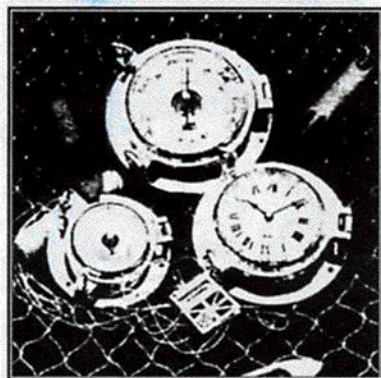
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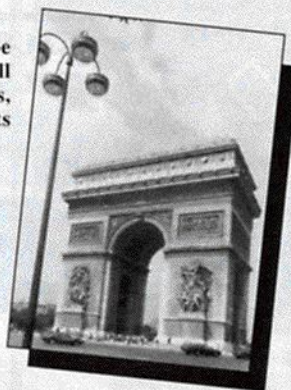
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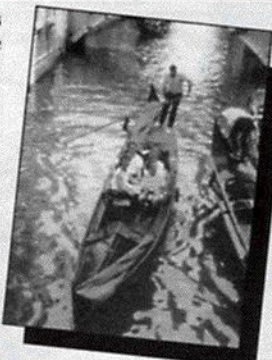
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Ganges relics turn up at standard dedication

WITH 50 standards and 350 people marching to the music of the Royal Marines Band Plymouth, it was a big day for the HMS Ganges Association. Everything had been planned to the last detail for the dedication of the Association's new South Wales standard at Cardiff – but there was one big surprise in store that was to touch the hearts of all present...

As the Association officers were waiting outside St John's Church for the chief guests, an elderly woman approached them. Handing a carrier bag to the South Wales Division secretary, David MacLeod, she said: "My husband collected these when he was alive and I thought this might be the day to hand them to you."

After the dedication service the bag was opened to reveal a pair of wooden candlesticks made from the teak of the warship HMS Ganges built in 1821 and broken up in Plymouth in 1930.

"The day was so highly charged and everyone so emotional by what

we were doing, many people just wept at her simple generosity," said Shipmate MacLeod.

The woman was Mrs Joan Brown whose ex-submariner husband joined Ganges in the 1940s and died five years ago. He had bought the inscribed candlesticks when he spotted them in an antiques shop.

Now they will be used at the Association's dinners held at the United Services Mess – and Mrs Brown has been invited to tea with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Cllr Marion Drake.

Another highlight of the event was this message from the Prince of Wales read by the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Capt Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR:

I send my warmest greetings to all those members of HMS Ganges Association and National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association on parade today.

I am only sorry that I cannot be here in person to express my admiration of your courage and sacrifices in the service of your country in both peace and war.

You all share the common bond of camaraderie in adversity and it is a marvellous sign of that friendship, forged through mutual experience and the most demanding of circumstances, that so many of you are here today.

This comes with my best wishes to you and all your families.



● The Ganges candlesticks being shown off by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Cllr Marion Drake, with Ganges Association divisional secretary David MacLeod (left) and Association member Peter Evans.

Around the Branches

Cheshunt

Former head of Scotland Yard's Vice Squad, 'Nipper' Read – the bane of many criminals including the Kray brothers, was guest of honour at the branch dinner dance. The event was attended by 142 shipmates and wives, and during the evening Shipmate Russell Drew received life membership.

Shipmate Doreen (Babs) Chalkey, elected Shipmate of the Year, was presented with the Ron Joy Trophy by Ron's widow. Branch MAA, Shipmate Joe Wright, received the Chalkey Trophy.

Malta

Branch members mourn the death of their president, Shipmate John Conti Borda, also a loyal friend to shipmates in the UK. Having served as a steward to several Admirals – and in the RAF –

he always had a good yarn to spin and was ever ready to give assistance.

Derby

A 20-year friendship with German oppos was celebrated by branch members during a weekend in Derby's twin city of Osnabruck. Also involved were members of the RM, Fleet Air Arm, Submarine Old Comrades and WAAF Associations.

Highlight of a memorable night was a civic reception to mark the founding in 1892 of the Marineverein, the German equivalent of the RNA. A remembrance service at the town's war memorial included the laying of wreaths by the British associations.

Chelmsford

Despite a dwindling membership, shipmates were in good spirits

for the dinner-dance celebration of the branch's 60th anniversary. Grace was said by Shipmate Dusty Miller, the Loyal Toast was proposed by the branch president, Shipmate Tug Wilson, and the toast to the Association by the vice chairman, Shipmate John Gamlin. Chelmsford branch's drive to recruit continues despite the difficulties of being in an inland town.

Bridlington

Over 100 veterans made for the seaside for a get-together organised by a sub-branch of the Yorkshire Russian Convoy Club at Bridlington branch HQ.

Travelling from the North East, West Riding, Hull and York branches, the visitors had a great day's outing, gathering in the Royal British Legion Club for Up Spirits and a Sods Opera. Another such event is planned for the new year.

In Brief

FOLKESTONE shipmates Bill Simmons, Chunkie Chambers and Chunkie Challis raised £3,750 for King George's Fund for Sailors by collecting outside supermarkets and selling KGFS memorabilia.

THE ROYAL Naval Patrol Service Association held a successful annual dinner for 105 members and guests at Hanworth branch clubhouse. A coffee morning by the branch's ladies raised over £450 for the Macmillan Nurses.

BRENTWOOD members gave a warm welcome to Bob Hutton of the HMS Antelope Association when he attended the branch's remembrance service and parade. The wartime HMS Antelope had been adopted by Brentwood.

CAPT Mike Barrow DSO, RN (ret'd), the Commanding Officer of HMS Glamorgan during the Falklands War, gave a talk on the conflict to Liss & District branch. Capt Barrow's ship was hit by an Exocet missile and severely damaged in the conflict.

Waterlooville

Having survived some difficult times, members celebrated the tenth anniversary of their branch in confident mood with a dinner dance. They look forward to a brighter future and encourage any branch or club struggling to keep afloat to follow their example and hold on.

The branch's Trafalgar Day service was well supported with 16 standards in attendance.

West Bromwich

The branch was in the grip of Uckers fever when supporters of Telford and Redditch branches watched their teams compete in the final of the Uckers championship. The cheers resounded when Telford won the shield. Winners and losers then joined in a social evening, including a buffet prepared by the ladies.

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Find the Joker

China Fleet

FIND THE JOKER in *Navy News* for three editions – and you have a chance to win a five-night luxury holiday at the China Fleet Country Club in Cornwall.

All you have to do is spot the joker in one of the following three statements by Jack on naval matters.

Two are true. One is wildly inaccurate.

Just mark the box next to the untrue statement.

THE BIG PRIZE

... is a five-night holiday for two at the China Fleet Country Club at Saltash. It includes accommodation in a four-berth apartment plus free, unlimited use of the leisure pool.

The holiday starts on a Sunday and ends the following Friday on any week between April 12 and July 11 (inclusive) or September 12 and November 28.

Surrounding attractions include the glorious Tamar Valley, Dartmoor, Cornish beaches and Plymouth waterfront. The club has sports facilities – including an 18-hole golf course – and attractions for children.

Which of these three statements is NOT true:

- ☐ Chesapeake Mill at Wickham in Hampshire is named after the captured US frigate Chesapeake whose timbers are reputed to have been used in the building's construction.
- ☐ Cape Horn fever is an imaginary disease from which malingerers at sea are supposed to suffer.
- ☐ The first paddle steamers were so named because the crew were equipped with paddles lest the engines broke down.

If you can fill in this coupon as well as those in last month's and next month's editions, you have a chance of winning the holiday. (Call 01705 826040 for back numbers). The name of the winner will be selected at random from those who have given correct answers in the three editions. When you have completed all three original entry forms, send them in one envelope to:

Find the Joker, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth, Hants, PO1 3HH

They should arrive at *Navy News* no later than March 15, 1999. Entries with all three correct answers will be entered in a prize draw conducted at *Navy News* offices. Winners will be announced in the April edition of *Navy News*. The first name drawn will receive the prize of the holiday.

The judges' decision will be final. No correspondence will be entered into. *Navy News* employees and their relatives may not enter.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

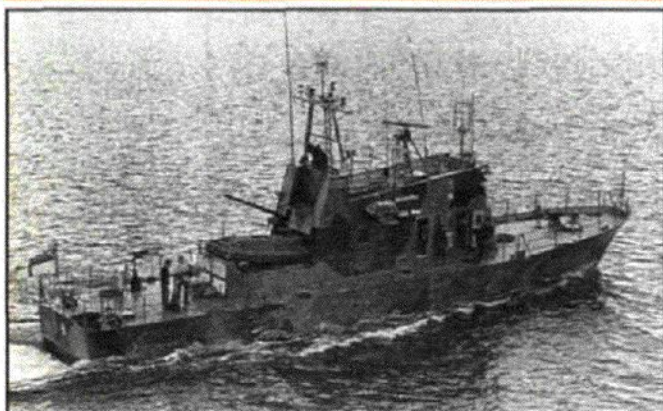
TELEPHONE.....



Association



PICTURE PUZZLE



WINNER of our November puzzle was Mr M. Noonan of Southsea, Hants. He correctly named the aircraft carrier as HMS Implacable, dressing ship as she returned from combat duty off Japan in 1945.

Mr Noonan's reply was picked at random, and he receives our prize of £30.

Our picture this month is of a very unusual ship of the Royal

Navy. For £30 identify her and give the reason for the name.

Complete the coupon and send it to Mystery Picture, Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. Coupons giving correct answers will go into a prize draw to establish a winner.

Closing date for entries is February 15. More than one entry can be submitted, but photocopies cannot be accepted.

Do not include anything else in your envelope: no correspondence can be entered into and no entry returned.

The winner will be announced in our March edition. The competition is not open to Navy News employees or their families.

MYSTERY PICTURE 47

Name

Address

My answer

France honours Somme sailor (101)

A FORMER Royal Navy rating who never served at sea – but fought at Gallipoli, the Somme and Passchendaele – is among the survivors of World War I who have received France's highest award for gallantry – the Legion d'Honneur.

Royce McKenzie, now aged 101, received the medal at a ceremony at his home town of Doncaster. Representing the RNA was RN Careers Service CPO, Shipmate John Utley, pictured here with Mr McKenzie.

A miner in civilian life, Mr McKenzie served in the Navy from 1915-19. Though rated as an AB, his entire war service was spent as a member of the Naval Division fighting on land.

As a company messenger, his role was particularly risky, and was recognised by the award of a Military Medal in 1917.

Sadly, he lost his son, also named Royce, in the Second World War. He died in Japanese captivity after the sinking of his ship, the cruiser HMS Exeter, in 1942.

Picture: Shaun Flannery, Doncaster



Trafalgar Day events

TWO MAYORS and three former mayors were among the 100 shipmates and guests attending Haverhill branch's Trafalgar Night dinner dance.

The group included the Mayor of Haverhill, Maggie Lee, and former Mayor Larry Kiernan, as well as St Edmundsbury Mayor Mary Martin and two of her predecessors – Colin Jones and Bill Cowley.

A striking feature of other celebrations was the number of shipmates singled out for special thanks. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald, guest of honour at the Wigston & District dinner, presented life membership to Shipmate Cliff Lea and certificates of appreciation to Shipmates Roy Grocock and Vic Hope. A memento of HMS Speedy, the town's wartime adopted ship, was presented to the Liberal Club and received by its president, Tom Shaw.

The Sergeants Mess of 40 Commando was the venue for the Taunton dinner and the pre-

sentation of the Malta Medal to former Royal Marine, Shipmate Reg Medley, a survivor of HMS Bonaventure. Certificates of appreciation were presented to Shipmates Doris Gibbins, Betty Paddon and Audrey Riley. The branch also held a Sunday Trafalgar service at the United Reform Church, followed by a parade.

A scroll depicting Nelson's victory and donated by Shipmate Derek Colbourne, was presented to Dartmouth branch at their dinner. It was attended by branch president, Commodore Roy Clarke, his wife, and the Director of Music at Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, Lt Philip Watson RM, and his wife.

At the Battersea celebration, life membership was awarded to Shipmate Ron Barrett by Vice Admiral Sir Roy Halliday. Branch president, Capt P. M. C. Vincent RN (ret'd), presented Ron with the Shipmate of the Year trophy.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Shipmate Patricia Potts when members of Stone

& District celebrated. Guests included the widow of Rear Admiral Malcolm Rutherford, Mrs F. Rutherford.

Celebrations at Brecon were attended by branch president Vice Admiral Sir Iwan Raikes and Lady Raikes. Guests of honour were Michael Jepson and his wife.

City of Ely branch held a Trafalgar Ball attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, and Les Sayers DSM, president of the Telegraphist Air Gunners Association, and his wife.

Derby members and their president, Rear Admiral Sir David Haslam, celebrated at a dinner organised by the Submarine Old Comrades Association. Guest of honour was Cdr Jake Moores, Commanding Officer of HMS Sovereign.

Atherton members shared a social evening with members from neighbouring branches and the Burma Star Association, while Falmouth branch held their dinner at a local hotel.

Navy News
1999

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Tales of the Sea



Navy News finds picture of horror

SINCE *Navy News* articles about the survivors of the Japanese PoW ship *Lisbon Maru* appeared in our October and December issues, this artist's impression of the ship going down has been sent to us by a reader.

The drawing is now in the possession of former Royal Signals soldier William Butler, who was one of the survivors of the sinking. Almost half of his 102 Royal Signals comrades were among more than 840 prisoners who died that day in October 1942. He believes that only 300 out of the 1,850 who were herded on board the ship at Hong Kong survived captivity.

"The picture is of the *Lisbon Maru* as it was when I got on deck," he said. "It was drawn in

Kobe, Japan by Lt W. C. Jackson USN as described to him by POWs after liberation."

Mr Butler recalls that when the prisoners broke out of the battened-down holds they swarmed on deck and began to abandon ship.

"On arriving on deck I made straight for a fresh water tank and had a good drink, not having had one for 15 hours," he said.

"The ship was at an acute angle, the after part being submerged up to the bridge, and the bows were pointing up into the air..."

"I went back to my friends Arnold Swaine, Joe Hogan and Vernon Talks... Vernon was very reluctant to enter the sea because he couldn't swim, so I took off my lifebelt and put it on him. I could swim so I had to give him a chance to survive. He didn't make it."



John's swashbuckling adventures

STORIES FROM John Luxton's Naval career sound like episodes from the contemporary fictional character, *Biggles*. Joining the Royal Navy in World War I, John's ship was torpedoed in the Mediterranean; he later witnessed the surrender of the German High Seas Fleet in 1919, and then was sent to the Baltic to combat Russian Bolsheviks...

● **John Luxton – fought pirates, Bolsheviks and served in both World Wars.**

In the 1930s he helped to control hostile crowds in Palestine, and fought pirates in China. In World War II he served in the battleship *HMS Nelson*, seeing much action and finishing his Naval career with 11 medals and a Bar for the Russian campaign.

Now aged 97, he recalls: "I

joined the Navy as a boy and was in the cruiser *HMS Endymion*. She was sent to bombard the Macedonian Valley to support our troops, but was hit by a torpedo off Stavroa.

"She struggled back to Malta, had some repairs done and went on to La Spezia where it was found she had broken her back."

The ship's company returned to the UK via Italy and France, and John was drafted to the battleship *HMS Monarch* – in time to see the long lines of German warships steam into the Firth of Forth to surrender to Admiral Beatty.

"I then joined the destroyer *HMS Sturdy* which started out for the Baltic to take on the Russian Bolsheviks. We did the ice patrols between Tallinn in Estonia and Helsinki, as the Russian fleet was frozen in. Our ship got stuck in the ice, too, but we managed to get free."

It was so cold, he remembers, that when he was sent to chip ice from the fo'c'sle, his hands stuck to the crowbar he was using. "We next went to Leipaja in Lithuania where the Bolsheviks were at the gates of the town. All the other destroyers had left harbour, leaving *HMS Sturdy* alone for two days."

On the second day, John was woken at 3am to take a dispatch to the British Consul about three miles inland. "The snow was about a foot thick, and I was wearing a sheepskin coat with a revolver in the pocket."



● John on board *HMS Nelson* during World War II.

Having completed his mission safely, John returned to the ship just before it left harbour. Then it was off to Danzig to supervise the destruction of Germany's U-boats. There, the crowds were so hostile that it was not safe for the Navy men to go ashore until British troops arrived.

By the mid-1930s, John Luxton was in the light cruiser *HMS Durban*, which with *HMS Delhi* provided two platoons to fight a fire ashore in Palestine. "While we were at the fire a message came that the police station at Haifa was under attack and *HMS Delhi's* platoon rushed off to defend it."

"They left behind their six signalmen who had side-arms and ammunition. A crowd of people were edging steadily closer to the arms, put to one side while we worked. I saw the arms on the ground and the crowds on the verge of invading."

"I dashed and saved five sets from between people's legs and took them to where we had our arms piled, with a sentry guarding them. There was a court of inquiry and I received the Palestine Medal."

In a patrol boat on the China Station, he was one of a detach-

ment that boarded the merchant ship *Haichang* to protect her from pirates attacking her in Bias Bay.

"The officers of the *Haichang* put up a marvellous fight and there were a lot of pirate casualties. The First Officer was killed, then the pirates set the ship on fire to drive the officers off the bridge."

The bridge was burned out and people rushed to the boats. "In the panic somebody let go one end of a boat and it tipped everyone out. The boat was hanging perpendicularly, still attached by blocks and tackles. I saw three of the crew trying to haul up the other end to allow the destroyer *HMS Sirdar* to come alongside to take off survivors."

"There was a crowd of Chinese around and I asked them to give a hand to get the boat up, but they refused, so I got a revolver and rounded up 30-40. *Sirdar* came alongside and 500 passengers passed down a chute to the destroyer."

As for the pirates: "Seeing us, they changed back into passengers – they were all coolies. We captured two who were later hanged."

When Hitler's war began, John was director layer of *HMS Nelson's* main 4.7in. AA battery. "In that capacity I did the shooting for three Malta convoys and the North Africa landings."



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FLEXIBLE FRIEND FROM VAUXHALL

VAUXHALL's trend-setting Zafira brings new meaning to the word flexibility – a folding mechanism converts the car from a seven-seater people carrier to a two-seater with 1,700-litre cargo space in just 15 seconds.

And it beats the competition because it does so with all the seats remaining on board.

Thanks to its compact shape the new car going on sale late next spring in the UK is no longer than the Astra Estate on the platform of which it is based, offering the same handling and manoeuvrability as well as the 12-year guarantee against rust-through.

Vauxhall is so pleased with its Flex7 innovation, with the two third-row seats with integral head restraints folding into a recess in the floor at the touch of a button, that it has applied for a patent.

The three-seat second-row bench has nearly eight inches of fore-and-aft travel, and again folds for a flat floor.

Engine choices are all 16-valve, with 100bhp 1.6, and 115bhp 1.8 petrol, and 85bhp 2-litre direct injection diesel.



● Flexible friend – the Vauxhall Zafira features a folding mechanism converting it to a two-seater with 1,700-litre cargo space.

Daihatsu deliver with a set of star new deals

DAIHATSU has reflected a slowdown in the car market and a need to stay competitive with some astonishing new deals.

Although Daihatsu's UK car sales were up 24 per cent to the end of September, the UK importer has mounted one of its most aggressive sales programmes.

Prices of the 1999 specification and 4WD Terios models have been cut by up to £2,300 to start at £9,995, with the luxury specification SE at £12,495 (down from £14,725).

The new 1-litre Sirion, launched in June with the introductory offer of automatic transmission at no extra cost, now keeps that two-pedal version at the same price as the manual, permanently.

And all existing stocks of the bigger Charade 1.3 are being offered with free automatic transmission – previously £1,000 extra – or free air conditioning (was £600). On Move models, where these luxury features added £550 apiece, you now get one free.

Three-pronged assault by Mitsubishi

MITSUBISHI Motors are really pushing the boat out with three all-new models for the UK market – the third-generation Space Wagon, the Space Star and the latest addition to the highly-rated 4X4 range, the Challenger.

With a retail price guide of £20,000 to £25,000 on the road, the Challenger was certain to make its presence felt when it went on sale at the end of December.

Although tuned for optimum urban performance – recognising that many 4X4s rarely get their tyres seriously muddy – the Challenger also has the potential to clear off-road obstacles. There are two engines, a 174bhp 3-litre V6 and 98bhp 2.5-litre diesel.

The Space Star, produced in the Netherlands, is a five-door hatchback with "semi-tall profile" body providing a compact vehicle but

with up to 48 cu ft cargo capacity for outstanding versatility.

To be priced between £12,000 and £16,000 on the road from early this year, it will be available with either the upgraded 1.3-litre 84bhp engine giving 0-62mph in 13.4 seconds or the revolutionary 121bhp 1.8 GDI with low emissions giving 0-62mph in 10.4 secs.

The Space Wagon has been further enhanced as a wide-body six- or seven-seater with new 147bhp 2.4-litre GDI engine giving both power and economy. Available now for around £18,000 to £23,000 on the road.

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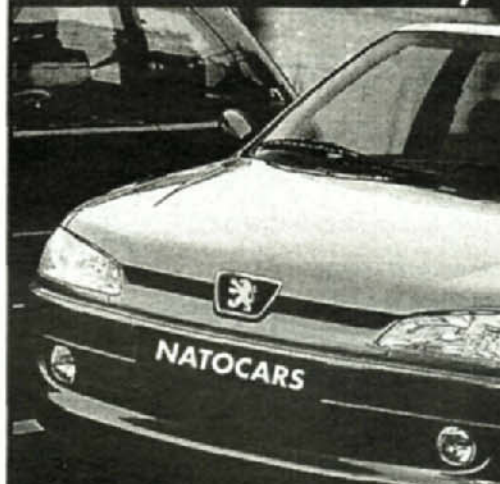
MAJOR REFIT FOR ALFA ROMEOS

ALFA Romeo's charismatic sportscars, the GTV and Spider convertible, have been extensively revised for the UK market, giving a wider range with more options.

New interiors now feature climate control as standard, there is more power for the 2-litre versions, and a 220bhp 3-litre V6 GTV.

Exterior changes include new body colours, side skirts, body-colour bumpers and side strips, new alloy wheels, and the famous Scudetto heart-shaped grille is now framed by a chrome-plated moulding.

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Sport



In Brief

RM slam opposition

THE ROYAL Marines were kings of the hoops when they beat the other four commands to take the RN basketball title.

Wins over Portsmouth (83-67), Plymouth (83-74), Scotland (80-32) and Naval Air (83-60) put the Royals at the top of the pile, ahead of Portsmouth, Naval Air (third), Plymouth (fourth) and Scotland.

The award for the most improved player of the tournament went to AEM Paddy McMahon of RNAS Culdrose.

Web Services

DEVONPORT Services RFC has its own pages on the Internet for those who follow Navy rugby.

Pages are updated where necessary and feature all levels, from first team to youth sides, including the Sirens women's side.

The website is at www.yeats.demon.co.uk/index.htm, and the e-mail address is: Devonport.Services.R.F.C@yeats.demon.co.uk.

Any ships or units who wish to sponsor or be associated with a youth team – money need not be involved – should contact the club.

Air supremacy

NAVAL aviators were well to the fore in the RN Inter-Command badminton championships.

Scotland/Fleet Air Arm took the honours in the Ladies' competition, with Portsmouth as runners-up ahead of Plymouth.

In the men's competition, Naval Air Command beat the Royal Marines into second place, with Scotland third, Portsmouth fourth and Plymouth fifth.

The two-day event took place at HMS Collingwood.

Neptune win

HMS Neptune travelled to HMS Warrior in the RN Hockey Association Navy Cup and came away with the spoils.

On a dull, damp day, the home team found themselves two down at half time thanks to a brace from OM Smith, but Rear Admiral Stevens gave Warrior hope before WOM Burrows restored the visitors' two goal lead.

A second for Warrior, scored by OM Herriott five minutes from time, proved no more than a consolation.

Net call

THE NAVY has been invited to provide stewards for the All-England lawn tennis championships at Wimbledon.

The stewards will be needed between Sunday, June 20, and Tuesday, July 6, and will be selected from WO and below of RN, RM and QARNNS.

Contact your PTI for further information.

Flat squash

THERE were few causes for Naval cheer at the Combined Services individual squash championships.

Army players took both the men's and women's open titles and the Under 25s, while an RAF man took the veterans' crown.

Best placed RN player was Lt Young, runner-up in the veteran's division, while S/Lt Crew (U25) and CPO Stewart (Vets) were third and LWTR Youdale (Men) and LMEA Draper (U25) came fourth.

Stars beat Invincibles

A TEAM of former football stars, including Kenny Dalglish, showed they could still cut the mustard when they took on HMS Invincible at a charity match in Durham.

The Durham Select fielded favourites such as West Ham's Pop Robson, Newcastle's Tommy Craig, Pompey's Mick Tait, ex-Saint Terry Gennoe and Andy King of Everton and QPR, and the 2,500 crowd were not disappointed.

Though the sailors worked hard to deny space, Dalglish put the Select ahead with a 15-yard chip, and the ex-

Liverpool, Blackburn and Newcastle boss made it a hat-trick by the close as the Select romped to a 6-0 win.

Ship's goalkeeper OM Stevo Steventon was named man of the match, and coach CPTI Glen Young said he was happy with his side: "The step up in class made it a privilege to be on the same pitch as world-class players such as Dalglish."

The match, to raise money for the club, was arranged as Durham is the carrier's adopted city, and the players and 80 supporters were hosted by HMS Calliope, Newcastle's RN unit.



● Durham star – Kenny Dalglish in action.



● No quarter – Portsmouth's reserve team boss Martin Allen (blue shirt) battles for possession with RN's Scott Mather at the Centenary match in Portsmouth. Picture: LA(PHOT) Craig Leask (SFPU).

RN lose to blend of youth and experience

PORTSMOUTH'S blend of youth and experience proved too much for the Navy at a match to celebrate the league club's centenary.

Fielding several first-team players, Pompey had an early scare when the Navy had a goal disallowed for off-side.

The First Division side gradually turned up the pressure, with Thorgersen chipping narrowly over the bar, while the sailors kept Pompey's defence on their toes with fast, inventive breaks.

Five minutes from the interval Portsmouth broke the deadlock, with manager Alan Ball's son Jimmy scoring from a corner.

Second-half goals from Martin Allen and veteran striker Ted MacDougall, Pompey's chief scout, sealed a 3-0 win for Portsmouth, but the Navy side did enough to impress the crowd of around 500 at the Victory Stadium.

The match, intended to be an annual event, also marks the close links over the years between the Navy and professional football in the city.

■ Shake-up for RN football – page 11



● Chuting star – Lt Cdr Peter Coulson training on the bob skeleton in Norway.

Navy put four past the Army

THE NAVY'S first game in the South West Counties Cup saw them put four goals past the Army for only the second time in more than 60 years, writes WOWTR Frank Cooper.

The Army had already beaten Hampshire 6-1 in their opening game, and as favourites – which seemed to be confirmed by the first 15 minutes, when the Army

pressed forward.

Only good work by Adams in the Navy goal prevented the soldiers scoring, and it was 20 minutes before the Navy mounted a serious attack, but after 28 minutes the sailors scored when CPO Long bundled the ball over the line.

The Army equalised within five minutes, but the second half saw the Navy take the game by the scruff of the neck, and the midfield began to supply quality ball to the strikers.

POAEA Thwaites put the Navy ahead on 51 minutes with a blistering shot from 30 yards which gave the Army keeper no chance.

He added a second on the hour, side-footing in from close range, and POPT Riley completed the scoring with a 65th minute penalty.

Coach Steve Johnson was delighted with his team's performance, saying their determination and resilience could not be matched by what was probably a technically superior side.

Forthcoming fixtures include games against the Prison Service on January 14 (HMS Drake), Dorset on January 20 (HMS Heron) and Sussex on January 27 (Burnaby Road, Portsmouth).

■ The Navy were kicking themselves after failing to beat Gwent.

The sailors went ahead after ten minutes through Kev Carter, but a deflected shot brought an equaliser for the Welsh side.

Gwent then had a player sent off in conceding a penalty, which Steve Riley missed, and the Welshmen then defended in numbers for a draw – though Richie Hope shot against the post after rounding the keeper.

Montrose in cup semis

HMS MONTROSE has become the first Type 23 frigate to have a football team in the Navy Cup semi-finals.

The side made a slow start in their cup campaign, drawing 2-2 with HMS Osprey in a fiercely-fought match. AB(EW) Russ Frears' strikes took the game into extra time, but the game was finally decided 3-2 on penalties.

Two Type 23s battled it out in the next round, with OM Daz Collett putting Montrose ahead against HMS Richmond in the first half.

A second-half hat-trick by LOM(UW) Jimmy Green wound up a 4-1 win for Monty.

Next in their sights were HMS Nelson, who took the game to Montrose in the first quarter and took the lead.

But despite tightening up their game and creating chances, Montrose could only pull one goal back by half-time, scored by Frears.

Andy Fern scored direct from a corner after 65 minutes, and Frears added a third. Nelson pulled one back with five minutes left, but it was Montrose who hung on to meet HMS Collingwood in the semi-finals later this month.

New sport on the slide

ROYAL Navy sliders are starting to make their mark in a sport which could attain Olympic status by 2002.

Three members of the RN bob skeleton team have travelled to Lillehammer in Norway to take part in the Army's ice training camp and novice Inter-Service competition.

The sport requires the competitor to travel, face down, headfirst down a bob track with his or her face three or four centimetres from the ice, reaching speeds of up to 80mph and pulling more than 4g on the larger bends.

Mne Ben Pointer, of LC Troop, Comacchio Group, and Lt Cdr Peter Coulson, currently at DERA Farnborough, spent two weeks at the camp, and were joined by AB Diver Steve Meddams of SDU2 for the second week.

The 1,350-metre Lillehammer track drops 110 metres and includes 16 bends, with novices achieving times of around 60 seconds – covering the length of an average municipal swimming pool in less than a second.

Ben Pointer led the way, coming top in the novices' competition, and his Navy colleagues also posted good times.

As a result, Ben was invited to attend the bob skeleton official training week in Austria, and is now a strong contender for future British teams, continuing a tradition which has seen the RN and other Services provide a vital element of British winter sports teams.

If anyone, male or female, would like more information on the sport of bob skeleton, contact Lt Aaron Whild on 01705 765777.

Surfers are set for busy season

A BUSY year for the Navy's boardriders begins with the Inter-Services competition at the end of this month.

To be held at Newquay, it will be a chance to gauge how well the popularity of the beginners' coaching courses, held alongside open events, is translating into potential competitors for the future.

Further beginners' courses will be held at the Spring Classic in Sennen Cove (April 24-25) and the Summer Session at Gwihian (June 26-27).

A RN/RM Boardriders Club expd has been proposed for March 12-20 in France and Spain, to consist of a number of stops at campsites along the N10 at surf breaks.

Other major dates include the RN/RM Championships and AGM at Sennen on September 18-19, and the Winter Wild One/Cold Water Classic on October 30-31 at Perranuthnoe, though venues may change because of the weather.

The club will also compete in the British Team Championships and the National Team Challenge.

Last season the club boasted 52 members, and the search is now on for more members.

Anyone interested should contact club secretary and treasurer POPT Mike Murphy at the Sports Centre, RNAS Culdrose, Helston, Cornwall TR12 7RH, tel 01326 552307 (fax 01326 552654) or military Culdrose ext 2307.



Novices on the road to success

DRIVERS from HMS Collingwood have tasted success at home and abroad.

First in the frame were Lt Bryony Carpenter (above) and PO Dave Chislett (below). It was Bryony's first driving event, but because of Dave's status they were in the British Army Motorsport Association's expert class.

In one orienteering section they found water coming above the floorpan of their Land Rover, and the terrain ranged from roads to deep bogs, but they persevered to win their class.

Shortly after Dave was partnering Lt Paul Nelson in Exercise Mini Magnum at RAF Laarbruch in Germany in the Army Motorsport championship.

The Navy team, making their debut as novices, were disappointed with their night navigation around the Rheindalen region, but their performances in the driving skills, orienteering and trials section boosted them to third overall – and first in their class.





X-country veteran ends year on a high

RM CAPTAIN John Rye, current Navy and Inter-Services veterans cross-country champion, has finished the year on a high, writes Lt Cdr Bob Chapman.

John made his debut for England in the British and Irish veterans international at St Asaph and finished fourth, helping England to a gold medal.

On an undulating course with a big climb and descent, John ran a good first lap in a group just behind the leading pair.

One runner broke away, but John plugged away to leave many of Britain's best veterans trailing.

John also ran in second behind top Navy athlete Mark Croasdale in the Corps championships.

These two are among those who have been training hard with the RN cross-country squad.

The training intensity was upped from mid-December to prepare for the Navy championships at HMS Raleigh on January 20.

■ The South West Counties championships at Exeter featured a tough course, and RNAC runners were thin on the ground, but those who ran flew the flag effectively.

In the ladies' race Belinda Fear (Culdrose) finished sixth while Max Ashby was 42nd.

In the men's race Bob Chapman (Yeovilton) ran well to finish 30th out of 250 - he was fourth veteran overall, and first over-50.

■ George Roper, despite suffering a heavy cold, finished 31st in 24m 51s in the prestigious Victory 5 Mile road race in the Portsmouth.

■ The Navy's top steeplechaser, Tim Watson (RM Band, Portsmouth) had a big win in the Hayling 10 Mile race in 51m 47s - a personal best by four minutes.

■ Veteran Bob Chapman also broke his own age group record (veteran 50) in the December Street 5km road series, finishing 11th in 16m 35s on a cold night.

■ RNAC runners featured in the Hampshire county championships in Basingstoke - and Tim Watson, running for Havant AC, came in 6th in a close sprint for the line.

Other Navy men behind him were Mark Goodridge (HQRM) in 24th, Taff John (Northwood) in 31st and Ginge Gough (Collingwood) 35th, and third veteran, Brian Davies (Temeraire) was 96th but won the veteran Over 55 title. The team finished ninth.

In the ladies race, Vicky Caldwell-Barr finished 21st, and was followed by Max Ashby.

Fisheries rowers lose again

SUPERB boat-handling skills, developed while boarding fishing vessels in rough conditions, did not prevent rowers from the Fishery Protection Squadron slipping to defeat again.

A team from HMS Shetland came a cropper when they took on four women's teams from Lerwick at the end of the summer.

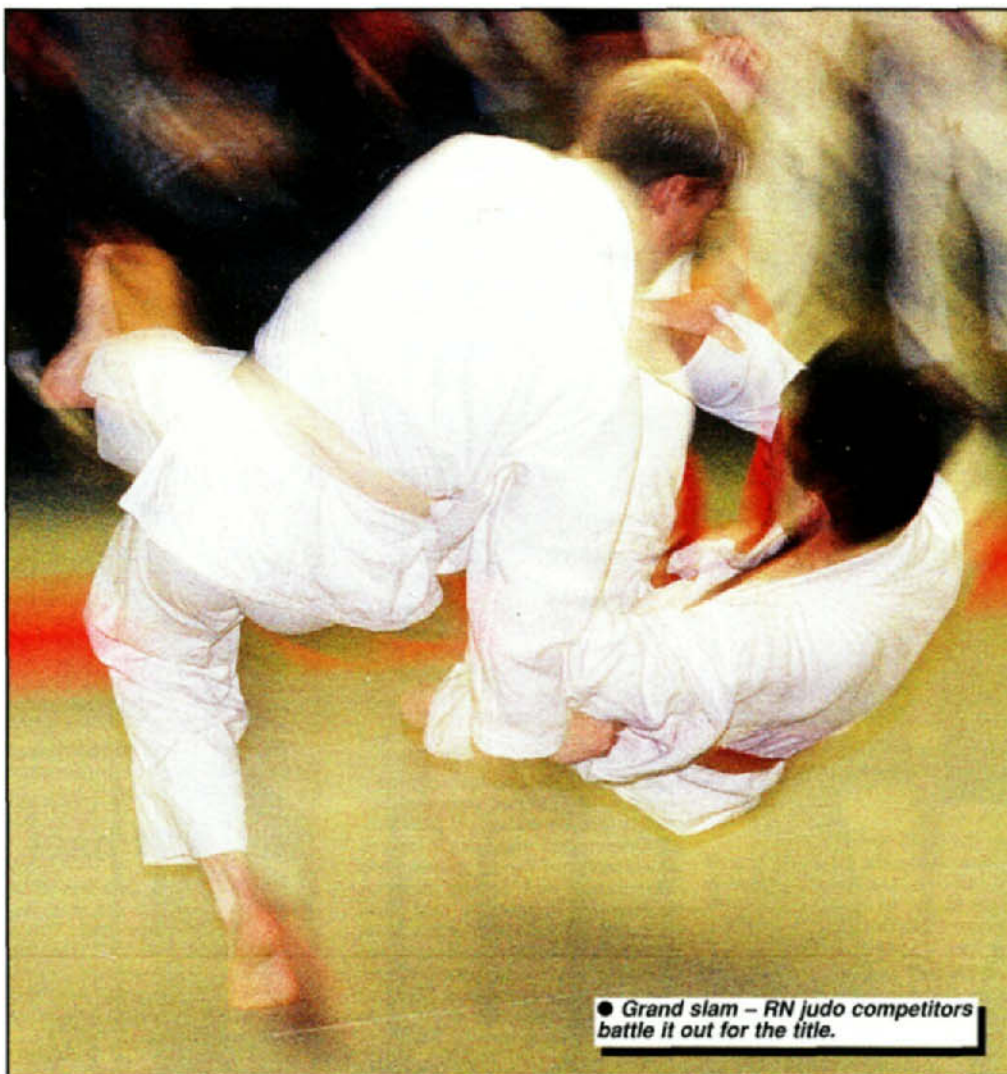
This time volunteers from HMS Orkney, just back from a hectic patrol, took on the ladies of Falmouth Gig Rowing Club over 1.5 miles in six-oared pilot gigs.

The ladies gave the Orcadians a length's start, but soon overtook the inexperienced sailors and finished a minute and a half ahead.

The ship's company took some comfort from the fact that some of the Falmouth women have strong links with the Navy - race organiser Anne Oliver is undergoing RNR training at HMS Vivid, Plymouth, her brother Paul is a LRO in Orkney, and Lyndsay Bryning is married to Cdr Chris Bryning, formerly at RNAS Culdrose, now at Northwood.

Sport

Royals take honours in judo championships



● Grand slam - RN judo competitors battle it out for the title.

Judo finals results

Men's Under 60kg: WEA Skinsby (Collingwood).

Men's Under 66kg: Mid Beeharry (Sussex URNU).

Men's Under 73kg: Mne Bradbury (RM Poole).

Men's Under 81kg: CPO Clarke (HMS Sultan).

Men's Under 90kg: AEA Matthews (HMS Sultan).

Men's Under 100kg: Mne Liepa (40 Cdo).

Ladies' Open: WAEM Wood (HMS Heron).

Senior Open: Mne Bradbury.

Novice Open: Mne Liepa.

Veteran Open: Sgt Melbourne (RM Stonehouse).

Inter-Unit: 40 Commando.

Inter-Command: Royal Marines.

Canoe race plea

THE CANCER Research Campaign would like to hear from anyone willing to tackle the Devises to Westminster canoe and kayak race in early April.

If you are over 14, fit and can swim, you are eligible - contact Michael Heyland on 0181 789 1192.

Racers set for Pacific

WITH a transatlantic leg behind them, the three Service yachts in the Transglobe 98 race now face a short leg down to Panama before heading out into the Pacific.

The Navy yacht Adventure finished Leg F1 in Antigua first, but was a matter of hours outside the time limit and picked up penalty

points along with the RAE.

Army yacht Broadsword, having been forced to start five days behind the other two, made up more than half the deficit with an audacious sweep past the Azores, but with more than 4,000 miles behind them and only 60 miles to go, Army skipper Peter Batley had to be airlifted off by the US Coastguard after being taken ill.

The yachts are expected to finish Leg 2 in Hawaii around the beginning of March.

Cricket hopes

WITH an eye on the talent of the future, United Services (Portsmouth) Cricket Club is starting up a Colts section in the U11, U13 and U15 age groups.

Coaching sessions will be held every Tuesday, starting on January 12, from 1800-2100 at HMS Temeraire. Boys and girls of any standard are welcome. Details from Andy Ford, 01705 820311 (w) or 01705 791263 (h), or Peter Piercy on 01705 291408 (h).

Sultan walkover

HMS Sultan have made progress in the RN Hockey Association Navy Cup - without striking a ball.

Opponents HMS Nelson forfeited the fixture as they were unable to muster a team.

Tourists win twice

HMS COLLINGWOOD'S rugby team notched up a double success on their weekend tour to Morpeth in Northumberland.

The first match, against Morpeth RFC Select XV, was played in dry, mild conditions, conducive to fast, open rugby.

Collingwood's strong team faced a side of mainly 3rd and 4th team players - the first and second string sides were already committed to fixtures - and the sailors quickly began to dominate.

It was swiftly decided to fine players who tried to kick the ball, and the flowing game ended with Collingwood 91-0 ahead.

The second fixture was a social match against Morpeth veterans/social.

Steady rain and a much stronger opposition - including a father and son combination and a former Neath wing-forward - resulted in a hard-fought game, and it was only in the last quarter that the youthful element of Collingwood began to make their influence felt and the Navy side ended up 29-12 winners.

The annual tour to Morpeth, birthplace of Admiral Lord Collingwood, started in 1996.



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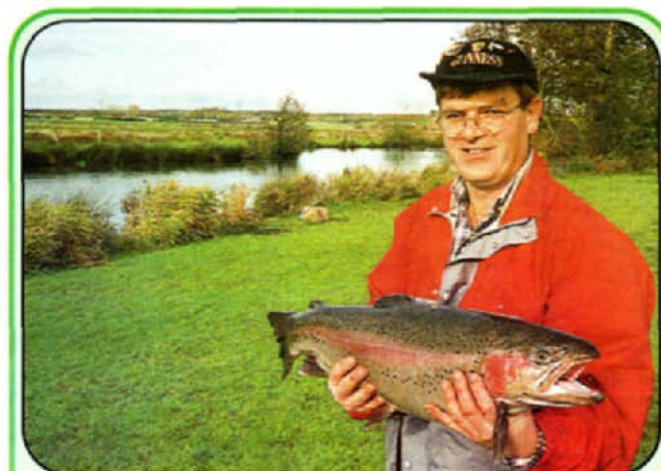
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● Top angler - POMEM Mick Pointing with the specimen 12lb rainbow trout with which he won the RN/RM Angling Association Portsmouth Game Section end of season fishing competition at Emsworth in Hampshire. The flyfishers compete in all RN and RM competitions as well as local sessions. Further details from Cdr Stu Ellins (Portsmouth Naval Base 26525) or WOMEA Iain MacAllister (PNB 25147).

HASLAR TO CLOSE — BUT IN COME CASUALTY SHIPS

IN A MAJOR overhaul the Government is proposing to spend £140 million to strengthen the Armed Forces medical back-up in battle areas.

Included in the Defence Medical Services' Strategy for the Future are plans to acquire two casualty receiving ships, each with a 220-bed capacity, establishment of Centre of Defence Medicine and eventual closure of the sole surviving military hospital in the UK, at Haslar.

Royal Hospital Haslar will be closed in favour of arrangements involving the National Health Service in Portsmouth – possibly a military wing at the city's Queen Alexandra Hospital.

There will also be a major and immediate recruiting drive to attract talented people into the DMS and a shake-up in the organisation of the Armed Forces medical services.

Announcing the changes, Defence Secretary George Robertson said the plans would give Britain's Services a fully manned medical organisation with the status, authority and responsibility to match its crucial importance.

"The Strategic Defence Review showed that in future we must be prepared to go to the crisis, not wait for it to come to us," he said. "Our medical back-up needs also to be flexible and deployable worldwide, to provide high-technology facilities for our men and women on the battlefield."

That primary care capacity will be increased by the two new casualty ships, one of which will be kept at a high state of readiness, and one at low readiness. They will be acquired by 2005. Meanwhile, RFA Argus's medical facilities – she stood by as a casualty receiving ship during the Gulf War – will be upgraded during her refit next year.

On the replacement of Royal Hospital Haslar, the Ministry of Defence will work closely with the local NHS organisation, centring plans on proposed development at Queen Alexandra Hospital and local arrangements at Gosport, where a War Memorial Hospital already exists.

The plans include the possibility of a new Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit at Queen Alexandra Hospital. Such units already exist at Derriford Hospital in Plymouth, Frimley Park at Aldershot and at

£140m injection for Defence Medical Services



● RFA Argus – her capability as a casualty receiving ship will be upgraded during her planned refit next year. And by 2005 two, 220-bed ships should be in service.

Peterborough. A fourth is now planned at Northallerton.

The closure of Haslar is unlikely to occur before 2002, and MOD has pledged that it will only go ahead when suitable alternative arrangements are in place to ensure continued health care in the area – and when the planned Centre for Defence Medicine has been established.

Haslar, a Royal Naval Hospital until it became tri-service in 1996, first opened its doors in 1753 – four years before Nelson was born. However, the Defence Medical Services have found it increasingly difficult for the hospital to provide the specialised care demanded by GPs in the area, and so patients tend to be referred elsewhere.

The declining number of patients makes it more difficult to maintain skills and properly train Service medics. In addition, the DMS says the hospital is in too isolated a location, is not ideal for most Service personnel who are based in other parts of the country, and its running costs are significantly higher than the alternatives – particularly as it occupies a Grade 2 listed building.

"Haslar is therefore already reduced in influence and status – we wish to avoid getting into a situation whereby it suffers a slow, painful but inexorable decline."

says the DMS review.

Meanwhile, the establishment of a Centre for Defence Medicine is "most likely" to be integrated with a major NHS hospital – possibly a teaching hospital.

"This will provide a centre of excellence for research and new ideas into battlefield medical back-up and top-class training," says the

review. "Expressions of interest" for its location will be sought by Easter.

The DMS will be involved in greater consultation with the NHS at the highest levels to complement both services' efforts.

Organisational changes in the DMS will include a new, two-star chief of staff appointment to implement reorganisation, as well as new one-star directors of personnel and training.

The single-Service Medical Directors General will be brought within the Surgeon General's organisation and a new, high-level management board – with NHS representation – will be chaired by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff.

As well as a recruiting campaign, more use will be made of Reserves, use of a bursary scheme will be examined, and conditions of service will be harmonised.

Steps will be taken to ensure that military standards and ethos are maintained for personnel working in NHS hospitals, and that better military training is provided.

Other plans announced include the transfer of the air mobile field ambulance unit to the new air manoeuvre brigade by next year, bringing 800 field beds in four field hospitals to higher readiness and manning them with Reservists, creating an extra evacuation flight by 2001, and forming three new ambulance squadrons by 2005.

Lancaster's NATO odyssey ends



ALL SMILES – and for once the gapping doesn't matter – as HMS Lancaster is welcomed home to Portsmouth by friends and families.

Here, LREG S. Brickell is reunited with daughter Louise (eight) and son David (six) after the ship ended her voyages with NATO's Standing Naval Force Atlantic. She and the tanker RFA Bayleaf have been deployed west and east with STANAVFORLANT, which this year is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

In November the squadron made its first visit to Russia, and later called at Devonport where

the six vessels were open to the public. The four-day visit coincided with the first American Thanksgiving festival in the city – STANAVFORLANT's American warship being the USS Stark.

Celebrations included the ceremonial presentation of a 30lb turkey to the Stark's Commanding Officer.

Other ships of the squadron were Canada's HMCS Montreal, the Netherlands warship Van Galen and Spain's Cataluna. Lancaster's successor in the squadron is another Type 23 frigate – HMS Norfolk.

Picture: LA(PHOT) Paul Smith.

We repeat plain English success



FOR the second time in three years, Navy News has won a Plain English Campaign award, being presented here to Editor Jim Allaway by Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Home Civil Service, Sir Richard Wilson.

The Inside Write awards are designed to promote clarity in communications.

Said Jim Allaway: "Nearly half of our 500,000 readers worldwide have no Naval connection whatsoever, past or present. These are people who just like the Navy, like what it does and have its best interests at heart."

"Confusion to our enemies is a line that still holds good in the computer age – but we certainly don't want to confuse any of our friends. So I hope plain English is just what Navy News is all about."

The award was presented at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster.

Seawolf pact

A PARTNERING deal has been signed between the Naval Bases and Supply Agency and Matra BAe Dynamics UK Ltd, allowing the RN Armaments Depot, Gosport to assemble and test Matra naval weapons, beginning with Seawolf missiles.

NAVY'S FIRST WOMAN PILOT



● Lt Claire Donegan – to fly anti-submarine Sea King helicopters.

THE FLEET Air Arm's first woman pilot has received her 'wings' after successfully completing her operational flying training.

Lt Claire Donegan received them from Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear Admiral Iain Henderson, at a ceremony at RN air station Culdrose.

She will now fly front-line Sea King anti-submarine helicopters with 820 Naval Air Squadron based at Culdrose. The squadron is embarked in aircraft carriers for operational duties at sea.

"I'm very proud of what I have achieved," said Claire (26). "But I have achieved no more or no less than anyone else on the course."

She joined the Navy in 1995 after studying law at Manchester University.

Ocean sailor dies in US road accident

A RATING from HMS Ocean was killed in a road accident in Jacksonville, Florida, while on a run ashore from the ship.

AEM1 Brett Poludniowski, a 22-year-old single man, was believed to have been hit by a vehicle on November 28 while his ship was visiting Mayport. He was serving with 845 Naval Air Squadron embarked in Ocean for her transatlantic deployment.

Strategy meeting on Sailors' Rests

TRUSTEES of the Royal Sailors' Rests – 'Aggie Weston's' – meet this month to consider a strategy paper dealing with the future of the organisation.

During the review – reported in the November edition of Navy News – a large-scale consultation exercise has been held at the Royal Marines Museum, Eastney.

Director of the Rests, Jonathan Martin, told Navy News that smaller, occasional meetings have also been convened across the country. As part of that consultative process, a group of users of the Portsmouth Rest met with Mr Martin in December.

Decisions on how resources can be better targeted and how Aggie's may have to change to meet the challenges of today are expected by the spring.

